■ SUPER! / F2

Super!pays tribute to 20 Super! peeps

■ METRO / A19

MRT short on tickets, cuts them in half for commuters' ease

■ S. SPECIAL / A3-3

Nestor Torre's verdict on 'Great Raid': Cesar is one of standouts

■ NEWS / A3

Garci sighted in Malaysia, says NBI chief

Romulo: RP won't be next frontline of terror attacks

THE ARROYO administration yesterday dismissed suggestions that the Philippines could be the next frontline of terrorism in Southeast Asia after Indonesia. It said it was ready to meet the threats from foreign suicide bombers.

In Zamboanga City, police detained three Abu Sayyaf suspects for alleged involvement

ROMULO/A4

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Church backs Bishop Cruz but Senate probe stalled

By Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

AS THE SENATE suspended anew its explosive inquiry into the illegal numbers racket of "jueteng," the man who spurred the probe found support yesterday from the leaders of the country's Roman Catholic Church.

CHURCH/ A4

'It's GMA voice but she's not the one talking'

Defensor's experts say tapes doctored

By Norman Bordadora

THE TANGLED TALE of the "Hello, Garci" tape has taken a new twist.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday presented to the media a technical report by a forensic sound expert that, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo's troubleshooter, would spell the death of the impeachment complaint being pushed by opposition lawmakers at the House of Representatives.

In the report, American expert Barry Dickey said he had examined and seen "anomalies" in portions of the "Hello Garci" tape submitted by lawyer Alan Paguia to the House inquiry.

"It is my opinion, based on the examination of the copy provided, that several anomalies exist, which question the integrity of [the recordings]," said Dickey, whose past subjects of analysis include the Osama bin Laden recordings.

"This will kill the impeachment complaint," Defensor said at a news conference. He also presented three local audio experts, who all said they had heard evidence of splicing in the tape.

"The tapes they made us hear are full of lies," Defensor said. "Yes, it is the voice of the President, but that is not the President talking. It is an electronic and digital manipulation to link [her] to cheating and rigging the elections."

Dickey and a Filipino digital audio engineer, Jonathan Tiongco, said two tracks taken from the

IT'S GMA/ A17

44,100 Hz
16 bit
Stereo

JOAN BONDOC

BACK TO "HELLO, GARCI" through a presentation of Environment Secretary Mike Defensor of digital audio experts that allegedly found anomalies in the tapped conversations between President Arroyo and Garcillano, enough to "kill the impeachment case" against Ms Arroyo. Or so her irrepressible defender would like to believe.

NG PANGULO NG P

EDWIN BACASMAS

THREE POINTS are raised by President Arroyo as she addresses the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption on its 7th founding anniversary on Friday: Jueteng has been licked, the resurgence of terrorism but it would not succeed, and the energy-saving measures that the public and private sectors will have to put in place.

Little things mean a lot in saving energy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Abigail L. Ho and Jerome Aning

SMALL things can add up to big savings in energy consumption.

This was emphasized yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo, as world oil prices rocketed past $66 a barrel in New York.

Ms Arroyo renewed her appeal to the public to cut down on their energy consumption—from the electricity that lights and cools their offices and homes to the fuel that runs their cars and buses.

Color-coding schemes outside Metro Manila, "carless" days, shorter mall hours and a ban on playing golf at night are the more drastic energy conservation measures that the government is also looking at implementing.

"I have instructed the Department of Energy to lobby the institutions, both government and private, with large energy bills to adopt the various ways to save," Ms Arroyo said in a speech on the 7th anniversary of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

The government is expected to lead the way in energy conservation, with Ms Arroyo ordering the replacement of all incandescent bulbs in government offices with cost-efficient fluorescent tubes that use 75 percent less power, and last longer.

"I have been thinking how I can apply this in the Palace. We have chandeliers in public areas but we can do this [shift to fluo-

LITTLE/ A18

NBI warned against believing audio expert

By Armand N. Nocum and Norman Bordadora

MONTHS before Environment Secretary Michael Defensor presented Jonathan Tiongco as an audio expert, the latter approached officials of the Department of Justice and National Bureau of Investigation and volunteered his expertise.

He gave them samples of tampered audio tapes showing former US President Bill Clinton and Sen. Bob Dole discussing the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

To a senior DOJ official, Tiongco gave a CD where President Macapagal-Arroyo was heard saying that the reason for the disappearance of suspected drug lords was that they were being summarily executed by agents of the Dangerous Drugs Task Force.

"As our conversation deepened, I sensed there was something wrong with him. I called the NBI and they warned me against [believing] what he was saying," the DOJ official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he, too, was reluctant to

NBI WARNED/ A17

Allies, foes dismiss 'Spice' turned 'Splice Boy's' report

By Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE TECHNICAL report presented yesterday by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor was dismissed as rubbish by lawmakers, including staunch administration stalwart Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"He (Defensor) should be concentrating on the environment department's reforestation program instead of trying to prove himself as a sound expert," Pichay said.

Pichay also said Defensor's report had "no additional probative value" because lawyer Alan Paguia had already admitted to having edited the tapes he submitted to the House.

"In the first place, [investigating the authenticity of the tapes] is the work of the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation)," Pichay said. "It is not [Defensor's] job to do that."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson stood by the findings of the Australia-based Uniquest Pty. Ltd. (UPL), which he had commissioned and which said the Paguia tapes were "authentic and unaltered."

Lacson said Defensor had submitted a "fake" tape, which was supposedly why the American expert Barry Dickey came out with his conclusion.

"They spliced it. If you submit garbage, the one authenticating it will find garbage. Garbage in,

ALLIES/ A17

ALAM BA NG MAGULANG YAN?

Chatroom on sexuality wins Internet award

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A government-run interactive opinion chatroom and electronic inquiry site on sexuality for young adults won an award last week for best practices in Internet-based public services from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec).

Nicknamed "Bonjing," this city's first government-run interactive website can be found in the baguio.gov.ph website under the "Young People in Baguio City" link. Registration is required to access the site.

Bonjing was among the 10 Philippine sites honored in Taipei by the Apec Digital Opportunity Center. ADOC was established in 2003 to address the "digital divide" problem, an issue raised during the 11th Apec economic leaders' meeting that same year.

Aside from Bonjing, the other

CHATROOM/ A4

HINDI DITO! TIGASIN ANG PINOY!

Scourge of the century: 185M Asian men impotent by 2020

By Christian V. Esguerra

MEN WILL find this hard to accept.

By 2020, a total of 185 million men in Asia alone will be suffering from erectile dysfunction or impotence, according to a medical expert, citing a World Health Organization (WHO) study completed this year.

"We better prepare ourselves for something worse," warned Dr. Jaime Songco, a urologist from the Makati Medical Center. "It may be the scourge of the century, I don't know," he said yesterday during a press conference on Viagra and erectile dysfunction.

Songco said the problem loomed not far from the Philippines, since Southeast Asia has the most number of impotent men (28.1 percent) worldwide, based on the WHO study.

There were more impotent males in this region compared with Northern and Southern Europe (13.3 and 12.9 percent, respectively) and Central and Southern America (13.7 percent).

East Asia was second with 27.1 percent while non-European countries like those in Africa came third with 20.6 percent, accord-

SCOURGE / A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Ilocos region will have stormy weather and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough to very rough. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/13/05

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

GMA boosts legal defense team

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has tapped two of the most brilliant corporate lawyers in the country to lead her legal defense team in what has been billed the most important trial of her political career.

The appointment of lawyers Carlos G. Platon and Saklolo Leaño to the President's defense team in the impeachment trial was announced yesterday by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Platon and Leano are founding partners of Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro & Leaño Law Office which is ranked among the top 9 law firms in the country.

They will join lawyers Pedro Ferrer and Romulo Macalintal, the President's legal counsel in the 2004 election, whose appointments were announced earlier.

Bunye said Platon would be the lead counsel while Leaño and Ferrer would assist him.

Macalintal has been designated spokesperson of the group with former Rep. Ed Nachura tapped as additional resource person to explain the impeachment process to media.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Platon said he did not have second thoughts about taking on the job of defending the country's top chief executive.

"Any lawyer will accept this challenge which I think is very novel," said Platon, who claimed that he has had no previous link to the President nor to her pet legal firm, Villaraza and Angangco, dubbed as the "The Firm."

Platon earned his spurs tackling big corporate cases involving blue chip firms such as Metrobank, San Miguel Corp., AT&T, McDonalds, Coca-Cola Philippines, and the big three oil companies – Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines.

On the other hand, Platon's partner, Leaño,. is considered not only one of the best lawyers in the country today but also one of the brightest in the world in aviation law.

Platon and Leaño were senior partners in the Siguion Reyna, Montecillo, & Ongsiako Law Office before they decided to form their own law firm in 1996.

But Platon does not see why their specialization in corporate cases should be a liability in defending the President during the impeachment trial which has been described as a political rather than a legal process because the outcome would be based on how the 236 members of the House of Representatives would vote on the issue.

"It's all the same. Whether it be corporate or criminal or political, all cases are won and lost on a legal basis," Platon said.

Platon said the legal team would strictly focus on the legal aspects of the case and that their client, the President, would take care of the political aspect of the impeachment trial.

Macalintal said they were treating the impeachment case as nothing out of the ordinary. "It's the same as all my other cases, I treat all of them the same way. (The impeachment case) is nothing special, only the personalities involved makes the difference," he said.

Macalintal is confident the President's impeachment trial would not go the way of that of deposed President Joseph Estrada which was railroaded at the House of Representatives.

"The main difference is the quality of evidence. The evidence against the President are inadmissible in court because either they are hearsay or illegally obtained unlike those against Estrada where (Ilocos Sur) Governor (Luis "Chavit") Singson provided direct testimony and copies of the case.

Macalintal said the opposition cannot compare the "Hello Garci" tapes scandal to the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of US President Richard Nixon.

"It was Nixon who ordered the wiretapping that led to the Watergate investigation. In our case, it is the President who is the victim of wiretapping," Macalintal stressed.

With the impeachment trial taking first priority in the President's to-do list, Bunye admitted that the earlier proposal to establish a Truth Commission has been placed in the back burner.

The body was earlier suggested by Catholic bishops to address the jueteng and wiretapping scandals buffeting the President.

NHA denies hand in purchase of relocation sites

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority yesterday denied involvement in the purchase of relocation sites for more than 40,000 families to be displaced by the government's ongoing NorthRail project.

NHA General Manager Federico Laxa stressed that NHA's role begins only after the majority of the informal settlers and the mayors where the sites are located have agreed on where the displaced families will be resettled.

Laxa issued the clarification in reaction to a published report that there was irregularity in the purchase of relocation sites.

Last week, an organization calling itself the Ugnayan ng Maralitang Komunidad sa Lalawigan ng Bulacan accused Laxa of trying to influence its members to endorse the nine-hectare Lambakin Resettlement in Marilao by offering them employment in a municipality in Pampanga at a salary of P10,000 per month.

"This claim of my endorsing the project and making an offer of employment is a downright fabrication. In the first place, the NHA has nothing to do with the selection of the sites, and I am not in any position of local authority to promise employment in any place in Pampanga or anywhere else," Laxa said.

The group further alleged that the Lambakin Resettlement was bought and developed by a firm allegedly owned by Laxa, his cousin Tony Ferrer and former San Simon, Pampanga Mayor Azor Sitchon.

But Laxa pointed out that before he joined the NHA in 2002, he had already divested his holdings in all his business interests.

"I am not at all connected in any manner whatsoever, with the company that they say I co-own," he said.

Sources inside the NHA suspect that some landowners whose properties were not chosen in the ongoing relocation program may be behind the campaign to discredit the housing agency's officials.

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Garcillano sighted recently in Malaysia, says NBI chief

By Gil Cabacurigan Jr.

WHERE in the world is former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano?

The question becomes relevant because the elusive alleged "phone pal" of President Macapagal-Arroyo may have sped out of the country's shores and is somewhere out there in the world.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco told Malacañang reporters yesterday Garcillano was sighted recently in Labuan, Malaysia. Previous reports had placed him at Kota Kinabalu, also in Malaysia, in Singapore and in London.

He has become the focus of a global search after the NBI hooked up with the Interpol, or International Criminal Police Organization, to make pinning down his whereabouts easier.

"Our chief of Interpol at the NBI has already communicated with the Interpol main office in Lyon, France to aid us in our search for Commissioner Garcillano just in case he went to places outside the Philippines," said Wycoco.

Wycoco said the NBI had not discounted the possibility that Garcillano was still in the country.

"We have been getting information that he was seen in Bataan and Cagayan de Oro. We continue to follow these leads. Simply put, we are cooperating with Congress to find Commissioner Garcillano," he said.

Congress has issued a warrant for Garcillano's arrest after its agents failed to serve him a subpoena to testify before the House of Representatives, which is looking into alleged election irregularities involving the President.

Garcillano has made himself scarce following eruption of the "Hello Garci" scandal two months ago. That he and his wife have not been located despite efforts by local authorities has fueled suspicion that Malacañang may be harboring Garcillano to prevent the issuance of testimony damaging to Ms Arroyo.

Malacañang has denied that it has Garcillano under custody but it also stated that it will not exert extra effort to find him.

'Shabu' use rising among urban workers

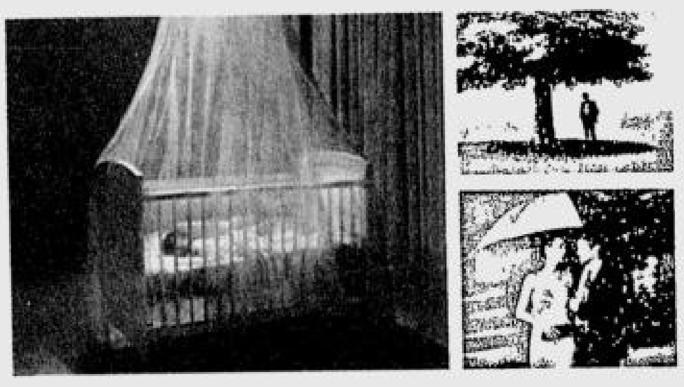
ILLEGAL drug use jumped by more than two-thirds over the past five years with young urban workers increasingly using amphetamines and marijuana, the government said yesterday.

The survey of households in 2004 found there were 6.7 million illegal drug users in the country, about two million of whom were either young professionals or minimum-wage earners, the Labor Department said at a conference on drug use.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said this was an alarming increase from earlier studies which found there were 1.7 million drug abusers in 1996, rising to four million in 1999.

"The average age of a Filipino drug abuser is 25 years old, employed, lives in urban areas and has an average monthly income of P4,726," the study said.

Methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "shabu," was the most widely abused drug, followed by marijuana, the department added. *AFP*



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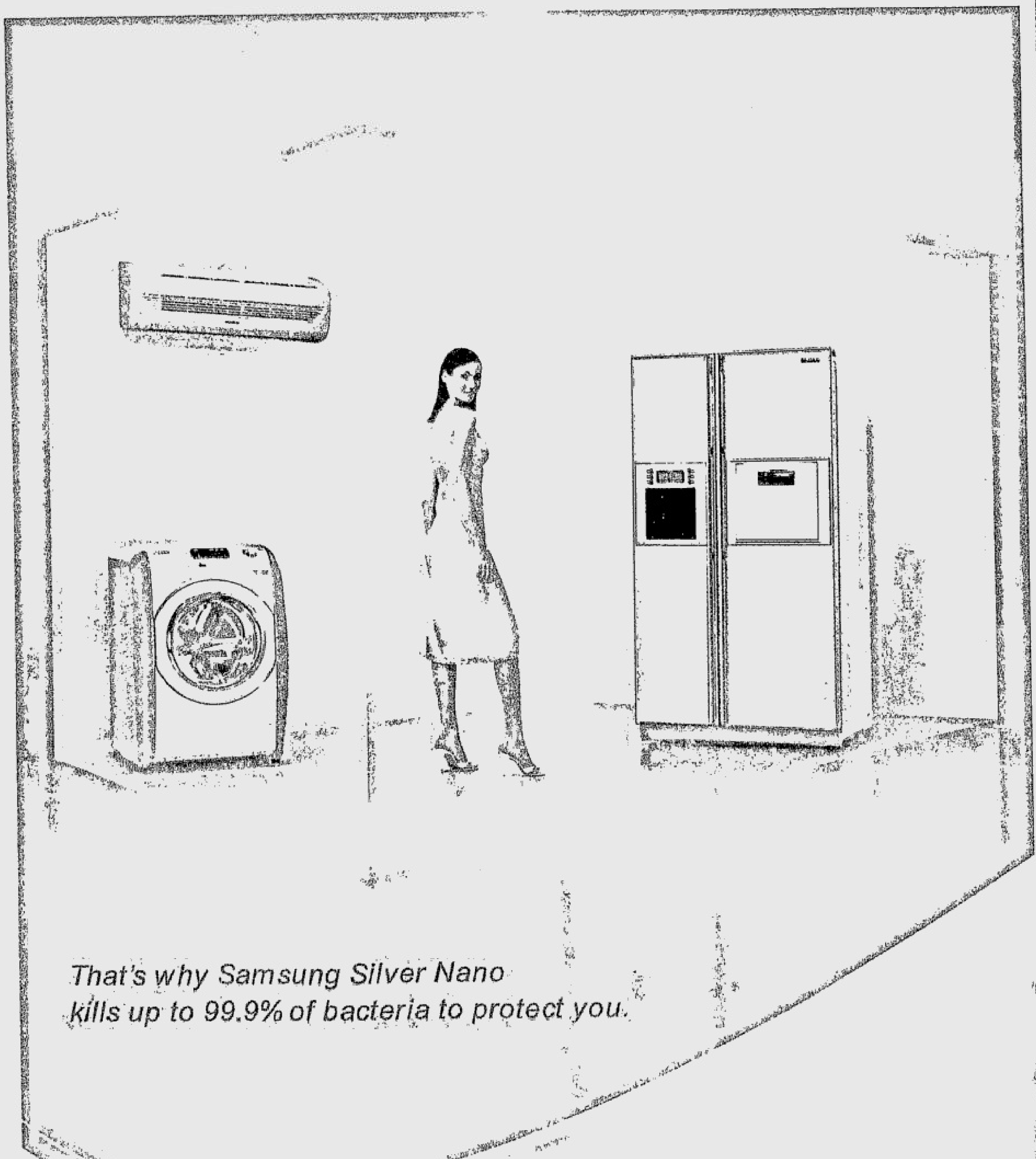

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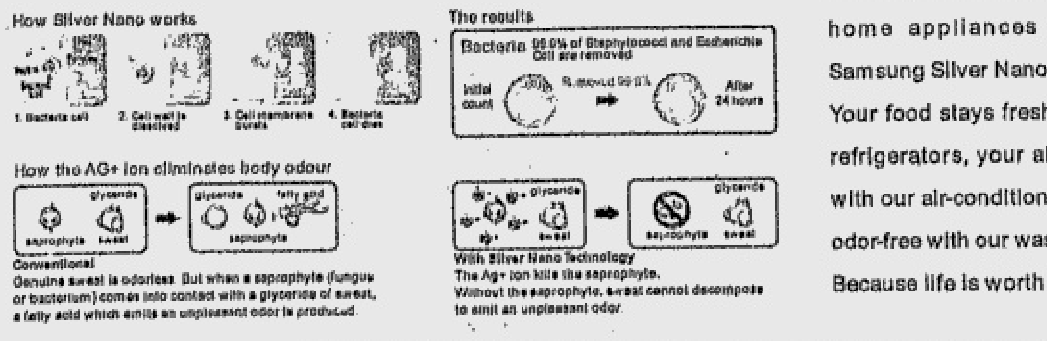

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Ignore threats, get on with your lives, Metro folk told

SECURITY officials urged residents of Metro Manila yesterday to get on with their normal lives, amid reports that two foreign terrorists might have slipped into Metro Manila.

"Metro Manila is not in danger. Let's get on [with our lives]. There is a generic threat of terrorism not only in Metro Manila but in all corners of the world. So go out; let's not be paralyzed by fear," Police Director Vidal Querol told the INQUIRER.

"Let the police and the military handle the job."

The head of Metro Manila's police command, however, urged citizens to be extra-vigilant. He also asked mall owners to employ more bomb sniffing dogs.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales has said that 10 Indonesians belonging to the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah appeared to be plotting suicide attacks in the country.

He said two of them were believed to be in the capital.

Security has been beefed in Metro Manila, with the police reviving checkpoints in an effort to stop the movement of explosives.

Querol visited malls and train stations this week and reported that store employees, janitors and security guards fairly knew what to do in case they found suspicious-looking bags.

The Metro Manila Police have been on full alert since Thursday night.

The police have also deployed policemen in buses as a deterrent to crime and terrorism.

Most of these bus marshals are in uniform, with about 10 percent being in civilian clothes, according to Querol. *Luige A. del Puerto*

Romulo: RP won't be next frontline …

From page A1

in at least one of the twin explosions which hit the city on Wednesday night, wounding 30 people.

President Macapagal-Arroyo conceded the country was facing a "desperate resurgence of terrorism" but said the bombers would not succeed with the determination of authorities and the people to fight it.

Visiting Australia for security talks with his counterpart Alexander Downer on security issues, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo brushed aside suggestions that his country could replace Indonesia as the focus of international terrorism in Southeast Asia.

"Definitely not. We work closely with all our neighbors in the Asian region and we are effective in repelling them," Romulo told Reuters, adding there was "no frontline" in the fight against terrorism in Southeast Asia.

He said the Philippines was ready to prevent suicide bombings by Jemaah Islamiyah militants reportedly already in the country for such missions.

"While we are concerned about these so-called suicide bombers we are ready for them," Romulo said.

Border security

Indonesia has borne the brunt of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia in recent years and blamed the Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian militant network, for the attacks.

Jemaah Islamiyah, taking advantage of porous maritime borders, has long used the southern Philippines as a training ground and safe haven but it is also believed to be funding and advising local militants.

Romulo said there was an urgent need to strengthen border security in Southeast Asia to prevent the export of terrorism and said he was discussing with Australia how to tighten security.

"We stressed the need for strengthening of border security in the region, that includes Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia is prepared to contribute," he said.

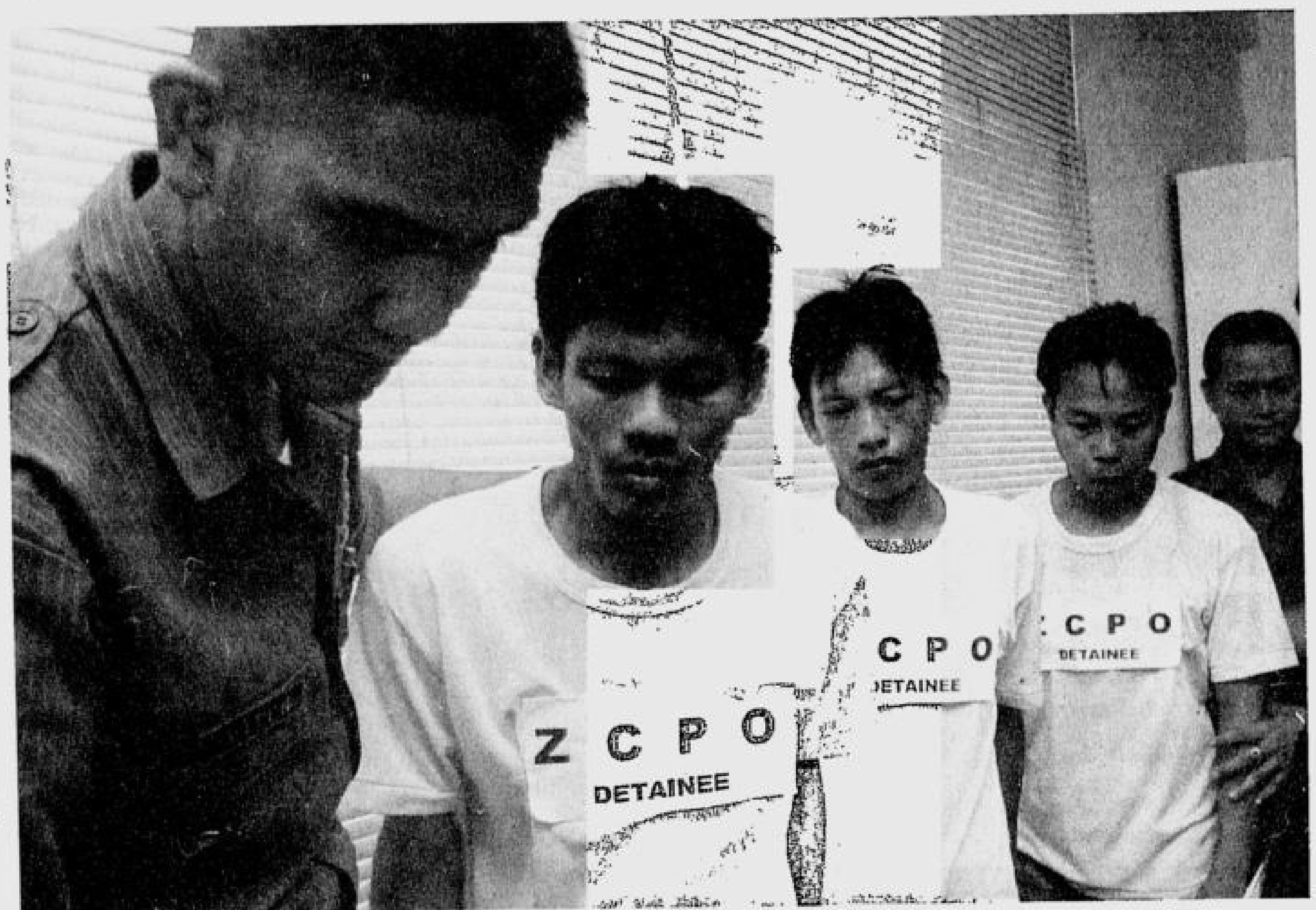
Identities confirmed

The three suspects arrested in connection with the Zamboanga blasts were members of the Abu Sayyaf, Mayor Celso Lobregat said, adding the police had confirmed their identities.

Philippine and Western intelligence agencies have linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida terror network of Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden.

Lobregat said that during interrogation, "material revelations" were made by the suspects, who were presented to media yesterday but were not allowed to talk.

"The police and other investigators said the three suspects are really members of the Abu Sayyaf and their motive is to sow terror," Lobregat told reporters.



SUSPECTS in the twin bombings in Zamboanga City on Wednesday night are presented to the media. From right Adzamar Abduraup, Angon Asmarin Alahain, Ibnoyatiem Salapuddin.

TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The suspects had been initially invited for questioning after they were noticed acting suspiciously shortly before the first bomb went off inside a multicab parked along Campaner Street.

The second bomb exploded at a building where a pension house and a Chowking branch was located.

Supt. Henry Lozanes said Adzmar Abduraup y Asmarin, 32, Angon Asmarin Alahain, 22, and Ibnoyatim Samier y Salapuddin, all natives of Tipo-tipo, Basilan, were positively identified by some witnesses "as responsible for planting the explosives under the multicab."

Bomb factory

He said Abduraup was arrested inside the Imperial Hotel and the two others were nabbed outside the hotel premises acting as look-outs.

Imperial Hotel is located about five meters away from the site of the first blast.

The three suspects have been charged in court for the Campaner explosion, Lozanes said.

He said the suspects in the St. Anne's Pension House explosion were still being pursued.

Col. Edgardo Gidaya, chief of Task Force Zamboanga, said the military was doing everything to prevent terrorists from attacking the city.

But he said that "there is no such thing as perfect security even with combined sophisticated security system."

Gidaya said he suspected a room at the inn where the suspects apparently stayed might have been used as a bomb factory by the Abu Sayyaf.

Janjalani diversion

In Davao City, the antiterror group Task Force Davao has implemented tighter security following intelligence reports that the Abu Sayyaf was planning to launch more attacks.

Task Force Davao (TFD) chief Col. Eduardo del Rosario said the attacks were aimed at distracting the military from its pursuit operation against Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani in Maguindanao.

"The Abu Sayyaf leadership is now on the run. They will conduct bombings to escape the impact of the military offensive against them," Del Rosario said.

He said the Zamboanga bombings were part of Janjalani's stratagem of diversion.

The three suspects were captured at a hotel near the site of the blasts after they checked in using aliases, the Associated Press reported.

Police were investigating three other men wounded in the blasts, including one who lost his left thumb, said Supt. Felixberto Candado.

Courage of Zamboangueños

Speaking at the 7th Founding Anniversary of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), Ms Arroyo thanked Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao for the immediate arrests of the suspects.

The President asked members of the anticrime group to help fight terrorism by keeping an eye on strangers entering their communities.

Ms Arroyo also commended the local leaders and people of Zamboanga City "for their courage and cooperation and for firmly standing their ground and in helping the government take the suspects into account."

Vigilance

"With the people's vigilance and closer partnership with our regional and global allies, we shall continue to keep terror at bay and bring terrorists to justice," Ms Arroyo said.

Lomibao told reporters the police were looking at some other suspects "but we're withholding their identity as of the moment."

Asked whether the Zamboanga explosions were connected with the reported entry of alleged Indonesian terrorists in the country, he said the police had not yet established such link.

Lomibao also said the police were still validating the information that these Indonesians were already in the country.

With reports from Julie Alipala, Judy Quiros and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christine O. Avendaño, Associated Press, Reutersand AFP

Chatroom on sexuality wins Internet award

From page A1

awardees from the Philippines are: the Bureau of Internal Revenue digital filing system, the National Library, the Bulacan provincial government, the Upi town of Maguindanao, the Central Visayas Information Sharing Network Foundation, the University of the Philippines Open University, the Advanced Science and Technology Institute, the Mindanao State University in Iligan and the Northern Mindanao State Institute.

Frank discussion on sex

City officials here are hoping that Bonjing will become an avenue for unbiased political and religious discussion on sexuality, population management and the AIDS epidemic in this part of the country, according to Erwin Manaois, city information technology officer.

The website was launched on May 16 with the goal of engaging teenagers in a frank discussion about how, when and where sex should take place.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon approved the project based on a concept developed by Dr. Cecilia Brillantes.

In a May interview, Teodora Catolos, the city's population program officer, said Brillantes' original plan was for the website to evolve into an e-counseling service because it would guarantee absolute anonymity for teenagers.

Catolos said teenagers and young adults would not openly go to professionals for help, based on information from government-run and privately owned counseling services.

Anonymity

"The telephone counseling services work because of the anonymity [they provide], but there is even more anonymity on the Net," Catolos said in Filipino.

She said the website's biggest come-on was the fact that questions were answered by some of Baguio's experts on sexuality, health and population management.

The city government had also forged ties with civic groups such as Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA), Child and Family Services Philippines Inc. (CFSPI) and Ebgan Inc., a gender rights advocacy group.

No censorship

Some of the experts have jokingly referred to the city project as "a condom website" because it provides better information about sexuality than what the government allows.

The website does not censor discussions, even allowing criticisms on the government's AIDS and population programs.

For more information about the website, e-mail bonjing@baguio.gov.ph.

Church backs Bishop Cruz but Senate probe suspended

From page A1

"I wholeheartedly support Archbishop [Oscar] Cruz's crusade against jueteng," Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said via e-mail from Australia, referring to the head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng.

The president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed his unequivocal support for Cruz amid criticisms from some administration supporters that the Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop was getting too much involved in secular politics.

"He [Cruz] is pointing out one of the ills of society, and that is part of his duties as a priest," Capalla said.

"In calling our attention to the evils of jueteng, Archbishop Cruz is meeting a need in the Church, the need for us bishops to fulfill our prophetic role as pastors."

It was Cruz's denunciations of the growth of "jueteng" during the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo that prompted the Senate to launch an inquiry into the multibillion-peso racket and into alleged payoffs for some members of the First Family and senior administration officials.

In line with Church teachings

Capalla said that what Cruz was doing was in accordance with Church teachings. "How he conducts his fight is his personal responsibility," he said.

"We are participating in different ways—by addressing the situations, for instance, that lead people to trust luck more than hard work," said Capalla, who is himself active in promoting peace in Mindanao.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales also supports the embattled prelate whom Malacañang claimed was unwittingly used by the opposition against the President.

So much gambling

"It is good that Archbishop Cruz is concerned with jueteng," he told reporters. "There is so much gambling in the Philippines."

Bishops Deogracias Iniguez of Caloocan and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches were similarly supportive of Cruz. Tobias in fact provided a safe house for one of Cruz's jueteng witnesses.

But Cruz's campaign suffered a setback after two of the witnesses he presented at the Senate hearings—confessed bagmen Richard Garcia and Demosthenes Riva—apologized to Ms Arroyo for supposedly dragging her and her family into the jueteng scandal.

Both Garcia and Riva, however, did not recant their earlier testimonies at the Senate.

Previous witnesses, presented by Cruz, had tagged presidential son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo as beneficiaries of jueteng proceeds.

After the withdrawal of another witness, Cruz declared that he had no more witnesses to present at the hearing.

Another potential witness of Cruz, Pampanga election officer Ferdinand Gerardo, initially submitted to Cruz a handwritten statement, stating that on the night of May 7, 2004, he and five other election officials from the province attended a dinner hosted by Ms Arroyo at the "White House" in Clark Field, Pampanga, and were each given P20,000 in exchange for ensuring her victory.

Last witness

But Gerardo later disowned the statement, claiming he was forced to execute it. He also claimed that the opposition tried to bribe him and another poll officer to implicate the President in electoral fraud.

He would have been Cruz's last witness.

But Cruz denied the allegation, pointing out that Gerardo had in fact furnished him a copy of his handwritten statement. Cruz played a DVD showing Gerardo freely talking about the contents of his statement.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. again suspended Senate hearings at the prodding of a majority of senators who claimed that the inquiry had turned into a political inquisition and thus should be stopped.

"I will abide by that [request to stop the hearings] precisely because the jueteng hearings have become politically charged. While personally I want the hearings to continue, I'm yielding to the majority's decision to stop these for now," Villar said.

Villar co-chairs the Senate inquiry with Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, wants the date of the final hearing set since there are still other witnesses willing to testify.

"It (date) should be agreed upon in order to preclude the suspicion that again this is intended, you know, to provide an exit for the President and the members of her family who are implicated in the jueteng scandal," he said.

Witnesses have testified that President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her family benefited from jueteng payoffs, the proceeds of which were allegedly used to pay off top election officials to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 elections.

Arduous task

Villar, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, did not rule out the possibility of resuming the hearings in the near future if that's the consensus of majority of the senators.

"I'm not totally closing the hearings," he said, stressing that he would ask his colleagues if they wanted the inquiry to resume to look into the operations of jueteng "province by province," among other issues.

But he admitted that this would be an arduous task. "If we're going to do this, this should have the full support of the senators," he said.

Some senators, including Miriam Defensor-Santiago, have complained that the inquiry had become a forum to either prosecute or "scandalize" President Arroyo.

At Wednesday's hearing, a security aide of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, Capt. Marlon Mendoza, testified that he overheard the latter saying that suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda had given P300 million to Ms Arroyo for her campaign.

GMA: 'Jueteng' has been licked

CONTRARY to Bishop Oscar Cruz's claims that "jueteng" still proliferates in many parts of the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday boasted that it was only during her administration that the problem of illegal gambling such as jueteng has been licked.

The President made the statement before the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) whose members were in Malacañang for their mass oathtaking and their 7th Founding Anniversary celebration.

Ms Arroyo told VACC members that jueteng operations had been shut down across the country a few months ago after she ordered the police to stop it.

Until now, the President said illegal gambling was "almost zero" in the country which she said was "the longest period (achieved) in any administration."

Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao agreed that jueteng had been "stopped or reduced to negligible proportions."

Ex-US attorney general tells GMA to step down

By Blanche S. Rivera

A FORMER US attorney general who is now leading impeachment moves against US President George W. Bush yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo, a known Bush ally, to "step down in the interest of the Constitution."

Ramsey Clark, the 66th US attorney general and a recipient of the Gandhi Peace Award, said a government that has lost its integrity could no longer serve and protect its people.

"You have a situation there which, it seems from this distance, clearly calls for your president to step down in the interest of your Constitution and the future of society," Clark said in a video aired by Bayan and Bayan Muna representatives in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

Clark, one of the defense lawyers of jailed former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, likened the impeachment initiatives here to parallel moves in the US to impeach Bush for high crimes and misdemeanor.

"It seems equally important for the people of the Philippines to face up to the failure of integrity of their own government," Clark said.

"If you do not have integrity in government particularly the highest position, the president, you cannot expect the government to protect the people, to serve, to respond to the interests and demands of its people," he said.

Ms Arroyo has been charged with culpable violation of the Constitution, graft, bribery, betrayal of public trust and human rights violations in the amended impeachment complaint being tackled by Congress.

International human rights groups have formed an International Solidarity Mission (ISM) composed of 85 foreign delegates to investigate reports of human rights abuses in the Philippines.

The findings of the ISM would be collated and submitted to Congress as evidence of human rights violations committed by Ms Arroyo.

"The most important part is finding facts. You really have to go out and learn the truth and bring it back to your tribunal… The work of the tribunal will not be more than the facts," Clark said.

Data from human rights group Karapatan showed that there have been 3,560 human rights violations affecting 18,977 families since Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency in January 2001.

Airport cabbie cited for honesty

By Nikko Dizon

CABBIE Reio Lance, never thought of receiving a reward or getting recognition for simply staying true to his values.

"I'm not telling people to idolize me. I'm far from perfect," Lance, 28, told the INQUIRER in Filipino yesterday following the brief awarding ceremonies at the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

Lance's wife, Rayzen, was also surprised over the hype but pondered on its significance at a time when Filipinos have to live with crime and a political crisis.

"I hope people will change for the better. We always hear of kidnappings and killings. Now, here's a different story," Rayzen, 29, said, beaming with pride for being married to an honest man.

The unassuming taxi driver, mildly embarrassed by all the attention heaped on him yesterday at the Miaa, was photographed with the agency's officials while being handed his reward—a plaque of recognition and P10,000 in cash.

"In the midst of these difficult times when money is scarce, it is heart-warming to learn that there are still people like him whose values remain unchallenged even in the face of irresistible temptation," said Oscar Paras, Miaa senior assistant general manager.

Among Miaa's thrust is to revive Filipino values among its officials and employees.

Rayzen said her husband had actually refused the cash gift that the Taguig City government wanted to give him last Wednesday in recognition of his honesty.

Instead, Lance accepted a sack of rice and the scholarship that Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga offered to the couple's two young daughters.

Lance said he was reluctant to receive any reward because he simply did what was right. Last Sunday, Lance returned P150,000 in cash to his passengers.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 13, 2005
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jos 24:14-29
Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them with a prayer. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Commentary

In the light of this call to faithfulness, parents are bringing their children to Jesus for him to bless them. He lays his hands on them in prayer and the disciples who don't listen or hear very well are indignant, pushing them away and telling them to keep their children to themselves. And now it is Jesus' turn to be indignant—those we don't think deserve to have time apart with Jesus, closeness and intimacy: children, the poor, servants, slaves, the sick and the weak-all those who don't count in society—they are the ones he wants to touch, to bless and be with, unlike us. This is Jesus' way, not the way of the world or our way. Who do we think does not deserve to get near Jesus? Who do we hinder from the kingdom in our self-righteousness? Is Jesus indignant at us more often than not?

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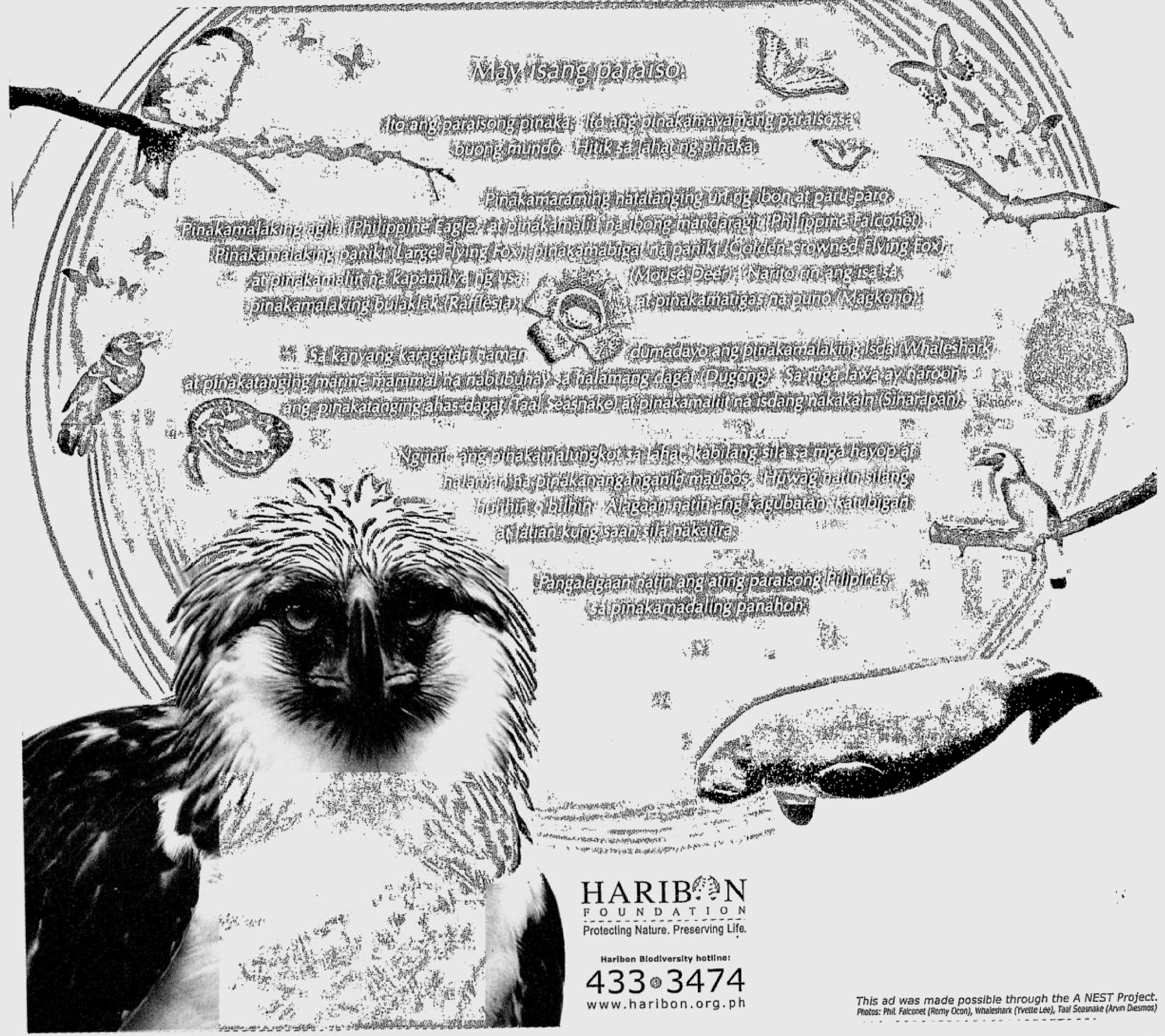
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Sa kanyang karagatan naman dumadayo ang pinakamalaking isda (Whaleshark) at pinakatanging marine mammal na nabubuhay sa halamang dagat (Dugong). Sa mga lawa ay naroon ang pinakatanging ahas-dagat (Taal seasnake) at pinakamaliit na isdang nakakain (Sinarapan).

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Treasure hunters still searching for Yamashita gold

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Rumors of secret maps, symbols carved in rocks and booby-trapped underground chambers filled with looted gold have lured treasure hunters to the Philippines for decades.

They are drawn by a legend that Japanese occupying forces stashed away billions of dollars' worth of bullion and precious artifacts looted from across Asia when they realized their empire was collapsing in 1945.

Tale filled with rumors

In a tale filled with rumors of cover-ups and conspiracy, treasure hunters claim that US forces spirited away much of the horde after the war and that billions of dollars' worth of loot remain unaccounted for.

For many, though, the Yamashita treasure, named after the wartime military governor of the archipelago, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, is nothing more than a fable with no evidence to back up the booty hunters' outlandish claims.

Today, armed with a pruning hook, Nicanor Brun guards the general's memorial stone from weeds and tomb raiders. The shrine lies on the lower slopes of a mountain, surrounded by an orchard beside a mountain brook.

Brun says his late mother told him Yamashita was strung up from a branch of an old mango tree at the site on the lower slopes of Mount Makiling in early 1946.

"There are a lot of diggings around," says the 47-year-old grandson of an anti-Japanese resistance fighter.

He says there have been several excavations in the area, including at the base of a waterfall called Dampalit where residents say treasure hunters recovered stones with Japanese characters inscribed on them.

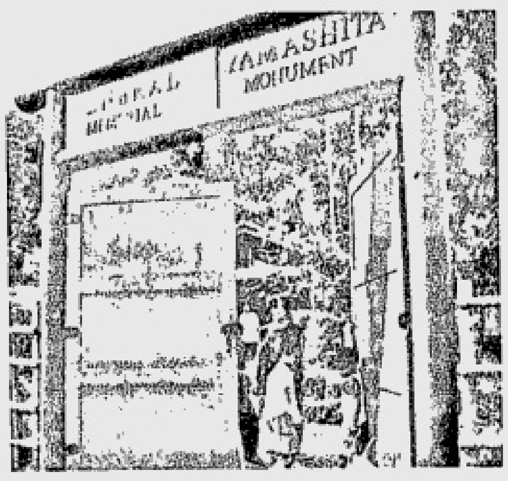
'Tiger of Malaya'

According to legend, after defeating British forces in Malaya and Singapore, where he earned himself the moniker the "Tiger of Malaya," Yamashita looted 12 countries in East and Southeast Asia and shipped the booty to the Philippines.

Six decades after the Japanese surrender, Internet chatrooms are alive with tales of networks of tunnels and chambers filled with gold and protected by booby-traps, pressure mines and trip wires laid by Japanese engineers.

"One of our companions died in a poison trap, fortunately he was able to bring home two bars of gold," writes one treasure hunter.

"We know the site but our problem is how to get our hands on the treasure without getting poisoned. The site is within a poisoned waterfall." Others write of buying up plots of land in areas where Japanese troops were stationed or made their last stand against US troops. They say the sites are dotted with markings such as hearts, arrows and pyramids carved into rocks.



THE gate of the shrine of General Tomoyuki Yamashita in Los Baños, Laguna. Treasure hunters dug a big hole behind the shrine in recent years, prompting the authorities to erect a fence around it. AFP

One describes "three big rocks one meter below the ground with a mark on top, a hand-painted square with a dot at its center, the number six and a key." "My friends found a huge arrow pointing to the river. The river floor was checked and they discovered a man-made tunnel," writes another.

Booby-trapped tunnels

"What they discovered was a big seven-foot high engraved heart shape with a curved tail on the tunnel wall. In the middle of the engraved heart was a deep hole large enough for the whole arm to insert in.

"Do you think it is a Japanese treasure site?" Another rumor claims that the same sappers who designed the warrens deep underground were buried alive with the treasure by their commanders setting off explosive charges to ensure that the locations be kept secret.

An even darker side of the story has it that the stashes were cursed by the Japanese and dotted with decapitated heads, while tales abound of treasure hunters dying or disappearing in mysterious circumstances.

'Nobody has found a thing'

By and large, however, experts give little credence to the stories.

"Despite all the treasure hunters, their maps, oral testimony and sophisticated metal detectors, nobody has found a thing," says Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Historical Institute and INQUIRER columnist.

Since the existence of the treasure has never been proven, theories of what it likely contains range from lines of gold bullion piled meters high, of solid gold Buddha statues weighing more than a ton, of loose diamonds, gold coins and priceless artifacts looted from temples.

Asian treasures

One account claims the existence of gems, rare art, such as ancient Chinese scrolls and precious metals, all plundered from Asian treasuries, banks, private homes, art galleries and pawnshops owned by Chinese tycoons, Malay royalty, Buddhist sects, drug lords and triad gangs.

Unlike art looted by the Nazis in Europe, none of the Yamashita "treasures" has been found, regional governments insist.

"We have heard of people searching for the so-called Yamashita treasure. But we cannot tell if it is true or not," a Japanese foreign ministry spokesperson said in Tokyo. Other countries are similarly circumspect.

But failure has not deterred the dreamers, who have bored underneath historical sites, Japanese cemeteries, wartime-era military fortifications, government buildings, churches, and even private lots for half a century—with or without government permits.

Authors Sterling and Peggy Seagrave in their 2003 book "Gold Warriors: America's Secret Recovery of Yamashita's Gold" allege the US government covertly recovered the booty and used it to bankroll the Cold War.

No Filipino historian takes the claims seriously.

Feeding the rumors are further rumors, of secret maps, of snippets of information given by Japanese soldiers as they went to their deaths.

One theorist alleges that Yamashita's driver was tortured by US agents into revealing treasure sites.

Urban legend-type story

Another suggests that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who commanded US forces in East Asia and went on to accept Japan's surrender, ordered Yamashita's trial and execution to keep him quiet.

"It's become something like an urban legend-type story," said University of the Philippines professor Rico Jose, a local authority on the Japanese period here.

Some of the hunters, foreign and Filipino, have approached him for help in deciphering maps and manuscripts that supposedly detail the treasure sites.

The booty was supposed to have been shipped into the Philippines late in the war after Yamashita became governor of the islands. Japan occupied the Philippines in May 1942 adding it to its expanding empire.

But Jose said that by 1943 "the Japanese were no longer in control of the seas" around the Philippines as US submarine warfare wiped out Japanese convoys.

"It doesn't make sense to bring in something that valuable here when you know it's going to be lost to the Americans anyway," he says.

"The more rational thing would have been to send it to Taiwan or China," Taiwan being a Japanese colony at the time with still secure sea lanes between the island and Thailand and Burma.

"There are big-scale diggings and there are some small-scale diggings. People just have a hunch that this place holds the treasure," Jose said.

Treasure map on helmet

A peasant woman from Mindoro showed up at historian Jose's Manila office six years ago, carrying a cracked and weathered military helmet that she insisted was owned by a Japanese soldier and covered with a map drawing of a treasure hoard.

"I told her, 'I'm sorry but that's an American helmet, and that is natural weathering,'" Jose said. "She was very disappointed because she comes from a poor family." In August 2003 tomb raiders went through a Japanese cemetery in Davao City, host to a large Japanese immigrant community before the war. More than 67 tombs were desecrated.

The hunts sometimes lead to disaster.

One Filipino treasure hunter was killed and four colleagues were injured in an underground tunnel in a private lot on Mactan island three years ago.

Fort Santiago diggings

More than a decade earlier, ex-US Green Beret captain Charles McDougal brought a large team to excavate parts of Manila's Fort Santiago, a Japanese-era prison, as well as nearby Corregidor island, where US and Filipino forces had made their last stand against the Japanese invasion in 1942.

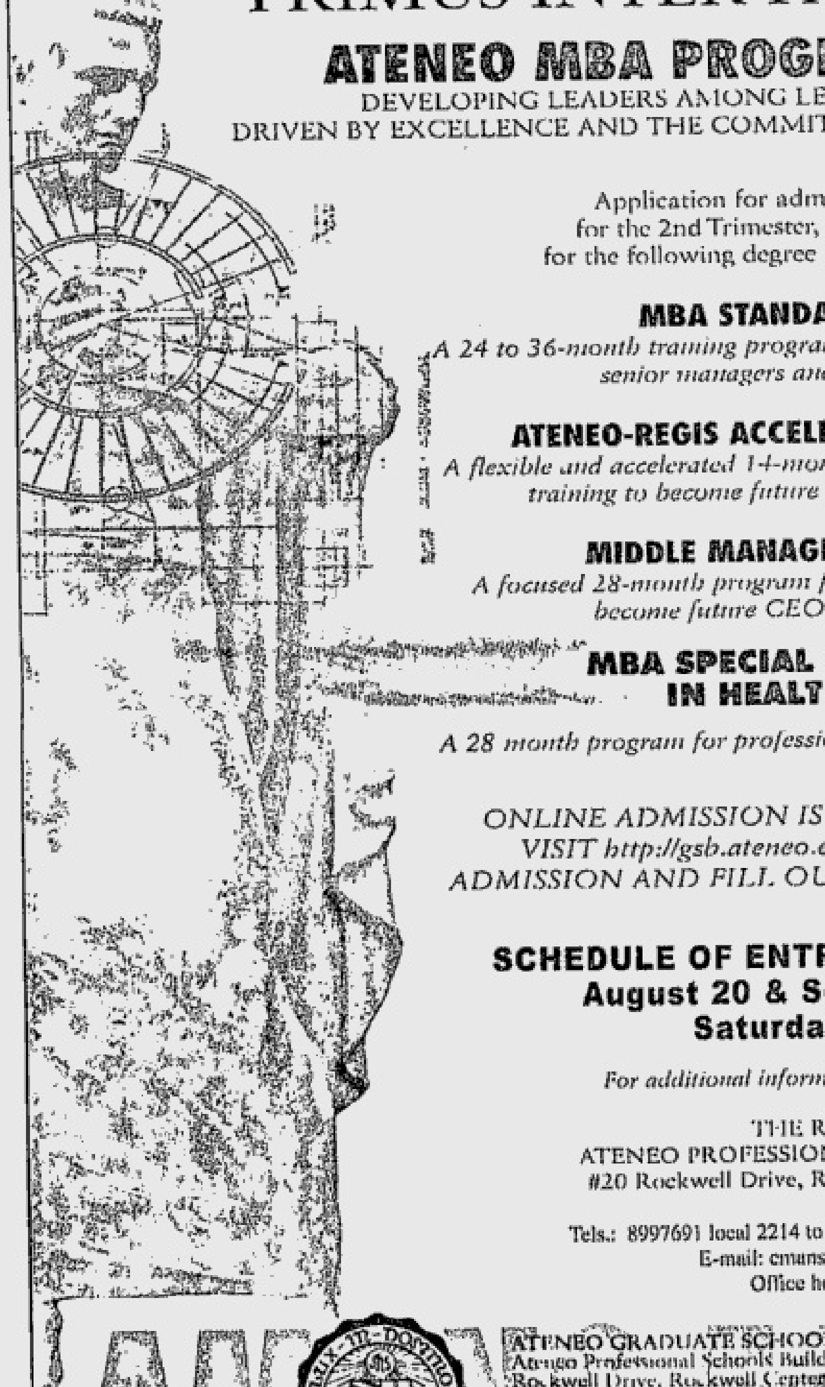
Two team members were killed in a cave-in, and McDougal abandoned the hunt, apparently without success.

Historian Jose says even the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos—a member of the anti-Japanese guerrilla resistance—got in on the act in the 1970s, ordering a team of divers into the wreck of the Japanese World War II-era cruiser Na Chi resting at the bottom of Manila Bay.

Marcos' widow Imelda later claimed her husband had found the Yamashita treasure, while the estate of Roger Roxas, the Philippines' most famous treasure hunter who died in 1993, filed a lawsuit claiming Marcos removed the gold from the Philippines with the help of the US government.

Roxas said he found a three-foot solid gold Buddha statue and a hoard of gold bars in a network of underground tunnels beneath a government hospital in Baguio City in 1971.

"When treasure hunters think about tunnels, they think there's always treasure there," says Jose. *AFP*



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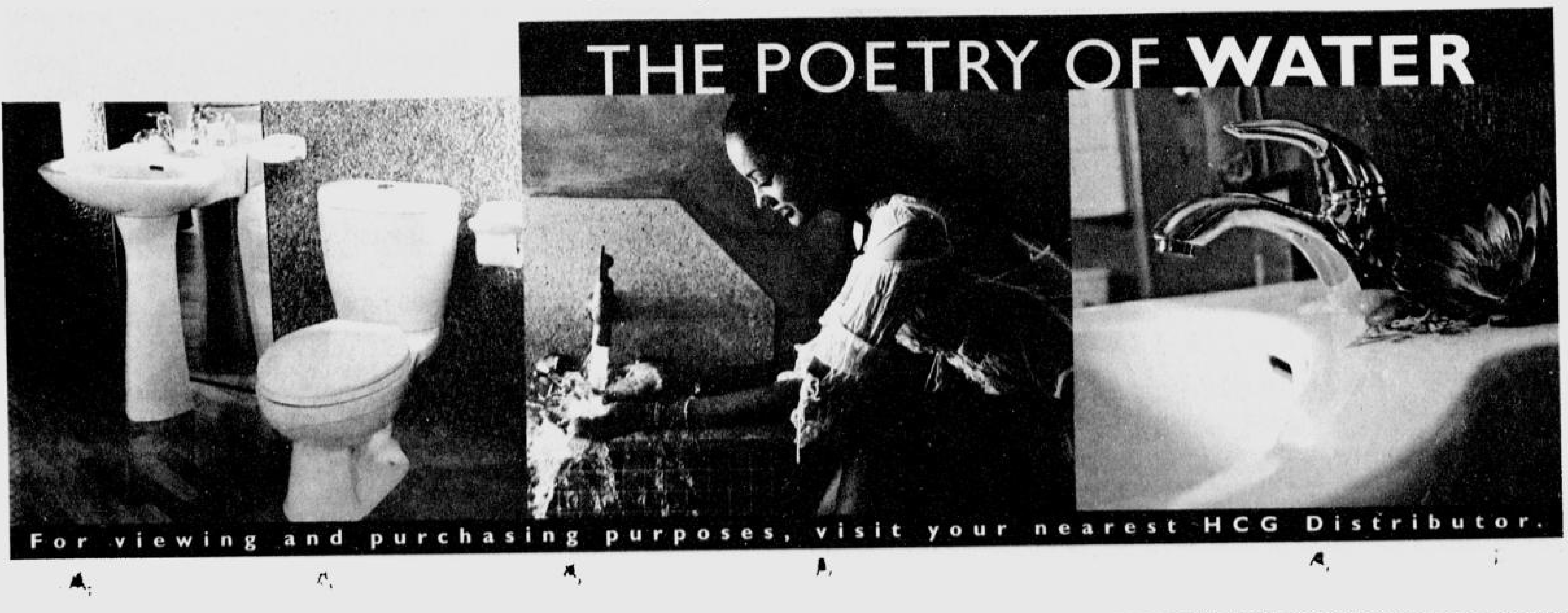

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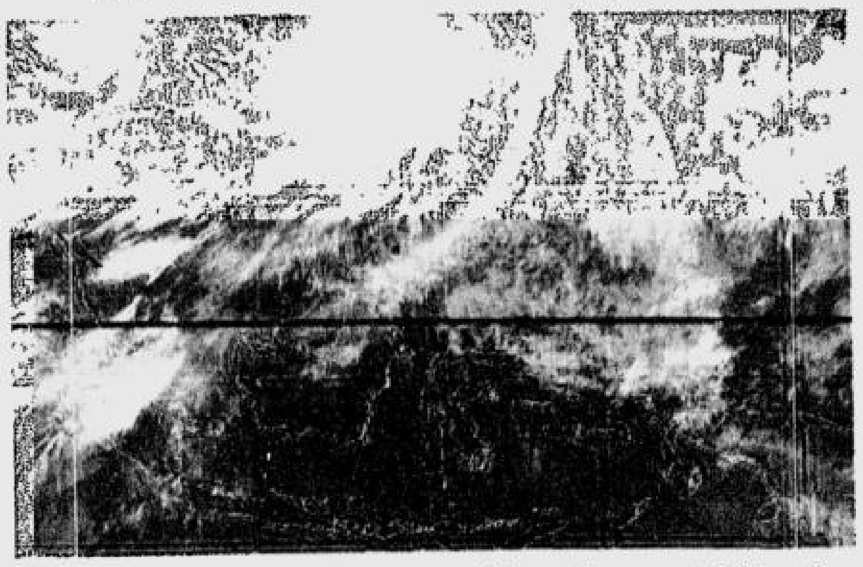
75-KPH WINDS

'Huaning' heads for China but storm signals still up

By Norman Bordadora

TROPICAL storm "Huaning" has developed winds as strong as 75 kph near the center and gustiness of 90 kph as it continues to move towards the southern coast of China.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Huaning was spotted 220 km northwest of Laoag City. It is expected to be 540 km northwest of Laoag City this afternoon.



TROPICAL storm "Huaning" churns toward the southern coast of China after pounding Northern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Storm signals

Despite this, Pagasa has kept most Ilocos provinces still under Storm Signal No. 2 today. Storm Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Apayao, Abra, Cagayan and the Batanes group of islands, Isabela, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Benguet and La Union.

All storm signals elsewhere have been lowered.

Monsoon rains

Pagasa said Huaning would continue to induce the southwest monsoon which in turn would cause rains over Luzon and the Visayas, particularly in the western sections.

The weather bureau has warned residents in low-lying and coastal areas and people living near mountain slopes to be on the lookout for possible flash floods and landslides.

Rough seas

Pagasa said sea areas west of Luzon and Western Visayas would have occasional rains packing winds of 30 kph to 55 kph. Sea conditions will be moderate to rough with wave heights of 1.25 to four meters.

It advised fishing boats and other small sea craft not to venture out into the sea, in the western areas of Luzon and Visayas.

Stormy weather

It said the Ilocos region would have stormy weather and its coastal waters would be rough to very rough. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas, including Metro Manila, will experience monsoon rains, according to Pagasa. Other areas of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Road accident

"Huaning" spawned heavy rains and strong winds in Cavite, Batangas and Laguna areas, which caused a minor accident and prevented almost a hundred priests from celebrating priests day.

In Tagaytay City, the foggy and occasional almost zero visibility of highways caused the driver of an Isuzu elf truck to lose control and ram into an island railing, hitting another vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. The mishap occurred in Barangay Mendez about 8 a.m. yesterday. The passengers emerged from the accident with only slight injuries.

Priests' day rained out

The bad weather also prevented some one hundred priests from Laguna from attending the priests day scheduled at a beach resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, after undergoing a spiritual retreat at the Don Bosco Retreat Center, in Batulao, Batangas.

This was supposed to cap their 5-day annual retreat. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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STILL HOT IN THE RAIN
Heavy rains fail to dampen the spirits of these two protesters in front of the Lepanto Building in Makati City Friday. The protesters voice fears that a labor dispute at Lepanto mining could turn bloody with the alleged heavy presence of the military and police at the picket line.

REM ZAMORA

GMA orders review of kids in adult jails

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the justice department Friday to review the cases of thousands of child offenders believed to be in adult jails, as highlighted in CNN reports this week.

Ms Arroyo said she had told Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales "to look into these cases of minors in prison that has come out in international television." "We cannot say we can't do anything about this. We can do something," President Arroyo said at a meeting of an anti-crime organization. "We must give more justice to our minor offenders and juvenile delinquents. Our treatment of them must follow our laws and the laws of the world."

Ms Arroyo said young offenders should be kept in special welfare homes for children rather than be jailed with "hardened adult criminals" in ordinary prisons, and the justice department should also look into releasing elderly prisoners who have been jailed for lengthy periods to ease pressure on congested prisons.

Philippine law says offenders below the age of 18 should be turned over to the Social Welfare Department or kept in the custody of their parents.

Sen. Ralph Recto said in May however there were about 2,100 children in Philippines jails; the Juvenile Justice Network, a non-government organization, estimates there are as many as 54,000. Gonzales said he did not know how many children were in prison but public attorneys were working to get them out. *AFP*

MINING INCENTIVE

Australia pledges $25M to aid RP land reform

SYDNEY—Australia pledged A$34 million ($25.5 million) on Friday to help the Philippines improve its unwieldy land administration system and provide greater incentive for potential investors in key areas like mining.

The money, to be paid over five years, was offered at the inaugural meeting of trade and foreign ministers from the two countries, who share annual two-way trade of about A$1.9 billion, roughly equally.

"A significant part of the discussions today focused on the desire by the Philippine government for Australian mining interests to take a greater role in the development of the mining and resources sector in the Philippines," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile told reporters after the meeting.

Vaile said Australia's miners could help redress an investment imbalance which currently sits heavily in favor of the Philippines, which he said had about A$4 billion in Australian investments while only about A$400 million in investments flows from Australia to the Philippines.

The Philippine government expects local and foreign mining firms to pump about $6 billion into 23 priority projects over the next six years.

Those projects include the Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project in Albay, in which Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. has a 74 percent stake and which began production this year.

Vaile said the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo had been trying to make investment in mining more attractive and an obvious target had been the expertise of the Australian mining sector.

"One of the issues to be addressed is the land tenure system," Vaile said.

"Our industry has deployed capital and resources into other parts of Southeast Asia and we would like to work with them ... to create an environment that is more attractive to that investment," he said.

Potential investment is made difficult by unclear land title and ownership rights. In addition, some of the richest deposits of gold, copper and other minerals are in areas of insurgency by Muslim and communist guerrillas.

Land reform efforts over the years have run up against resistance from powerful families who own large plantations and been complicated by government efforts to resurrect the mining sector after years of neglect.

Rapu-Rapu, the first new foreign-funded mine in the Philippines since 1968, is expected to produce 3,900 tons of zinc this year and 14,500 tons in 2006, as well as 10,500 tons of copper in 2006, up from 4,000 tons this year.

It is also expected to yield an average of 50,000 ounces of gold per year. *Reuters*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN watchdog urges Iran to halt nuclear fuel work

VIENNA—The UN nuclear watchdog Thursday called on Iran to halt nuclear fuel work that has raised fears of atomic weapons development and set off an international crisis, but Tehran dismissed the demand as absurd.

Even though the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution left the door open to more talks and refrained from bringing Iran before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions, Iranian negotiator Cyrus Nasseri said: "Iran will not bend. Iran will be a nuclear fuel producer and supplier within a decade."

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi said in Tehran that the IAEA resolution was "unacceptable" and a "political resolution adopted under pressure from the United States and its allies."

The resolution by the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors, expressing "serious concern" at Tehran's decision to resume uranium conversion activities, set a Sept. 3 date for a report on Iran's compliance which could lead to a new emergency IAEA meeting and possible referral to the Security Council for sanctions.

US President George W. Bush welcomed the resolution as "a positive first step" and said US strategy was to work with the Europeans "so that the Iranians hear a common voice speaking to them about their nuclear weapons ambitions."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on Iran to halt nuclear fuel work.

"The (IAEA) has spoken with one voice and the secretary general expects its resolution to be implemented."

Uranium conversion produces a gas that is the feedstock for enriching uranium, which fuels nuclear reactors or is potentially the raw material for atom bombs.

Washington charges that Iran, which hid its nuclear enrichment program for nearly two decades, is secretly developing nuclear weapons.

The resolution said Tehran should stop the nuclear fuel cycle work that has raised Western fears that it wants to develop nuclear weapons, a charge it denies.

Iran was urged "to reestablish full suspension of all enrichment-related activities including the production of feed material, including through tests or production at the uranium conversion facility."

The resolution came on the third day of talks at the Vienna-based IAEA and a day after Tehran had raised the stakes in the dispute by removing IAEA seals at a conversion facility in Isfahan, 400 kilometers south of Tehran. *AFP*

Fake news spawning a more skeptical public

By David B. Caruso

NEW YORK—With its official-looking BBC News banner, the website looked real enough, but the sick tale it told seemed too preposterous to be true.

"Lion Mutilates 42 Midgets in Cambodian Ring-Fight," blared the headline. An article followed about a circus-like spectacle that went awry and resulted in many deaths.

The page was a hoax, but it exploded across the Internet. Soon it was being repeated by bloggers, radio show hosts and a few newspapers. The New York Post published the yarn in its "Weird but True" column on May 20.

The episode was another in a string of fabrications and manipulations that may be causing people to think twice about what they read, hear or see on TV.

In recent weeks, Sony Pictures Entertainment agreed to pay $1.5 million to movie patrons duped by advertisements that contained fabricated quotes from a fictitious film critic.

Two reporters at a small newspaper in North Carolina, the Reidsville Review, resigned after a competitor reported that they had made up quotes for a man-on-the-street opinion feature.

The Pentagon was embarrassed after a military public relations office issued a press release containing a quote from an unidentified Iraqi civilian that appeared to have been fabricated. Journalists questioned its veracity after noticing that the quote had appeared in a previous military press release.

There are signs that these fiascos—and past fabrication scandals involving USA Today reporter Jack Kelley, The New York Times' Jayson Blair, and Stephen Glass of The New Republic—have led to a more skeptical public.

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, which conducts regular polling on attitudes toward the media, said that in 1985 about 84 percent of Americans said they believed most of what they read in their daily newspaper. By 2004, that had dropped to 54 percent.

What isn't clear is whether fabrications have become more common, or just easier to uncover.

These days, an army of amateur and professional media critics have made a hobby out of attempting to discredit news reports and statements by politicians.

Their work has been aided by powerful Internet tools that have made it easier than ever to detect stolen or false material, confirm identities or troll public records.

"Certainly the tools of verification are better and more readily available than they were in the Janet Cooke era," said Bill Mitchell of the Poynter Institute, a journalism school.

Cooke was a Washington Post writer who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1981 for a story about an 8-year-old heroin addict who didn't actually exist.

The fraud went undetected for months at her paper, even after Washington D.C. police, social workers and other journalists launched a massive search for the boy, but couldn't find him.

"While that kind of fabrication still takes place, the odds of it lasting very long are significantly reduced," Mitchell said. "There is an intense demand for verification. Honestly, I think the current environment is a lot more healthy than it ever has been."

Robert H. Giles, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, said there is probably less fiction masquerading as real news, but more public attention.

"If you go back a generation or two ago, you could probably find an enormous amount of stuff where stuff was lifted or quotes were fabricated," he said. He cited the work of A.J. Liebling, a revered journalist who occasionally embellished feature stories in the 1930s and 1940s with fictitious detail.

"Those days are gone, and I think our business is getting a heck of a lot more ethical," Giles said.

Still, there are problems.

In recent years, fake beheadings and kidnappings staged by Internet jokers posing as Iraqi insurgents or have made their way into newscasts.

Dozens of television stations were embarrassed last winter when it became public that they had aired government-produced propaganda videos staged to look like legitimate news reports. *AP*

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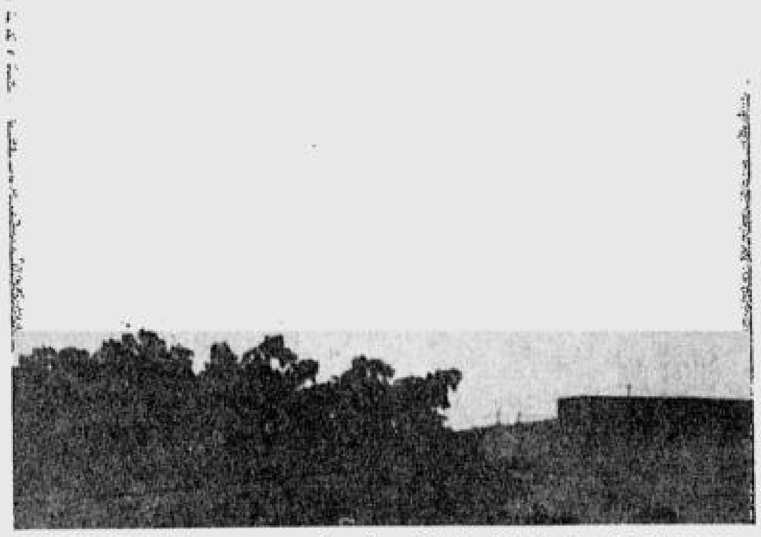

CHOKING thick haze covers the city of Malaysia's landmark Petronas Twin Towers, Aug. 6. The Education Ministry has given schools the option of skipping outdoor activities for students in view of the severe haze in several areas, including the Kuala Lumpur Valley. AP

Malaysians, expatriates leave KL to escape haze

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysians and expatriates began streaming out of the capital Kuala Lumpur Friday to escape the choking haze by taking a long weekend in cleaner locations, newspapers and travel agents said.

Families with young children were especially concerned about the effects of the haze which began closing in 10 days ago, especially after the government declared a state of emergency in two coastal towns Thursday.

Worried Europeans who had planned to return home for the northern summer once schools go on vacation in two weeks were hurriedly changing their plans, said Stephanie To from Samfo Travel.

"Many people booked special fares earlier but now they don't mind paying the 50 percent penalty. They just want to leave KL as soon as they can," she told AFP.

Krisztina Szonda from Hungary said she was flying back to Budapest for fear of the health effects on her newborn daughter.

"I haven't been able to leave the house for 10 days, it's just not healthy, especially for a little child," she said. "We started to plan two days ago and we booked the earliest flight we could."

Newspaper columnists also reported that people were heading out of town to area less hit by the haze, which has blanketed the capital Kuala Lumpur and surrounding districts, known collectively as the Klang Valley.

Singapore to the south, and Chiang Mai in northern Thailand were popular destinations, along with Malaysia's northern Penang island.

"Many families have left the Klang Valley for a longer weekend in other parts of the country where the air is cleaner. Equally, many are at a loss what to do," said Sarban Singh in a commentary carried by the New Straits Times. *AFP*

Books thicken as baby boomers grope for words

By Edward Wyatt

THEY carried dog-eared copies of "On the Road" in their back pockets during college and devoured Tom Clancy paperbacks on airplanes as young executives. But as baby boomers near retirement, they are finding it harder and harder to read the small type of mass-market paperbacks, the pocket-sized books that are the most popular segment of the publishing business.

Faced with declining sales, two of the biggest publishers of mass-market titles, Penguin Group and Simon & Schuster, have begun issuing new paperbacks by some of their most popular authors in a bigger size that allows larger type and more space between lines.

"We've been losing the foundation of our customer base because their eyesight is getting worse and the books are getting harder and harder to read," said Jack Romanos, the chief executive of Simon & Schuster, whose Pocket Books division introduced the mass-market paperback format in the United States in 1939.

More mass-market paperbacks are still sold each day than any other type of book; last year consumers bought 535 million of them. But that number has steadily declined for a decade and is down 11 percent in the last five years, while the overall number of books sold has fallen by only 7 percent, according to the Book Industry Study Group, a publishing trade group.

For publishers, the main advantage of the new book is that it is the same width as a traditional mass-market paperback, which allows it to fit in the wire racks at airports, grocery stores and drug stores. Those outlets are among the biggest sellers of the romances, Westerns, mysteries and thrillers that made up the bulk of paperbacks sold. Publishers have also raised the cover price of the new books to $9.99, $2 to $3 more than the traditional paperback but still less than the $14 cover price of the digest-size books, known as trade paperbacks, that are now the primary format for nonfiction books and literary novels. *New York Times*

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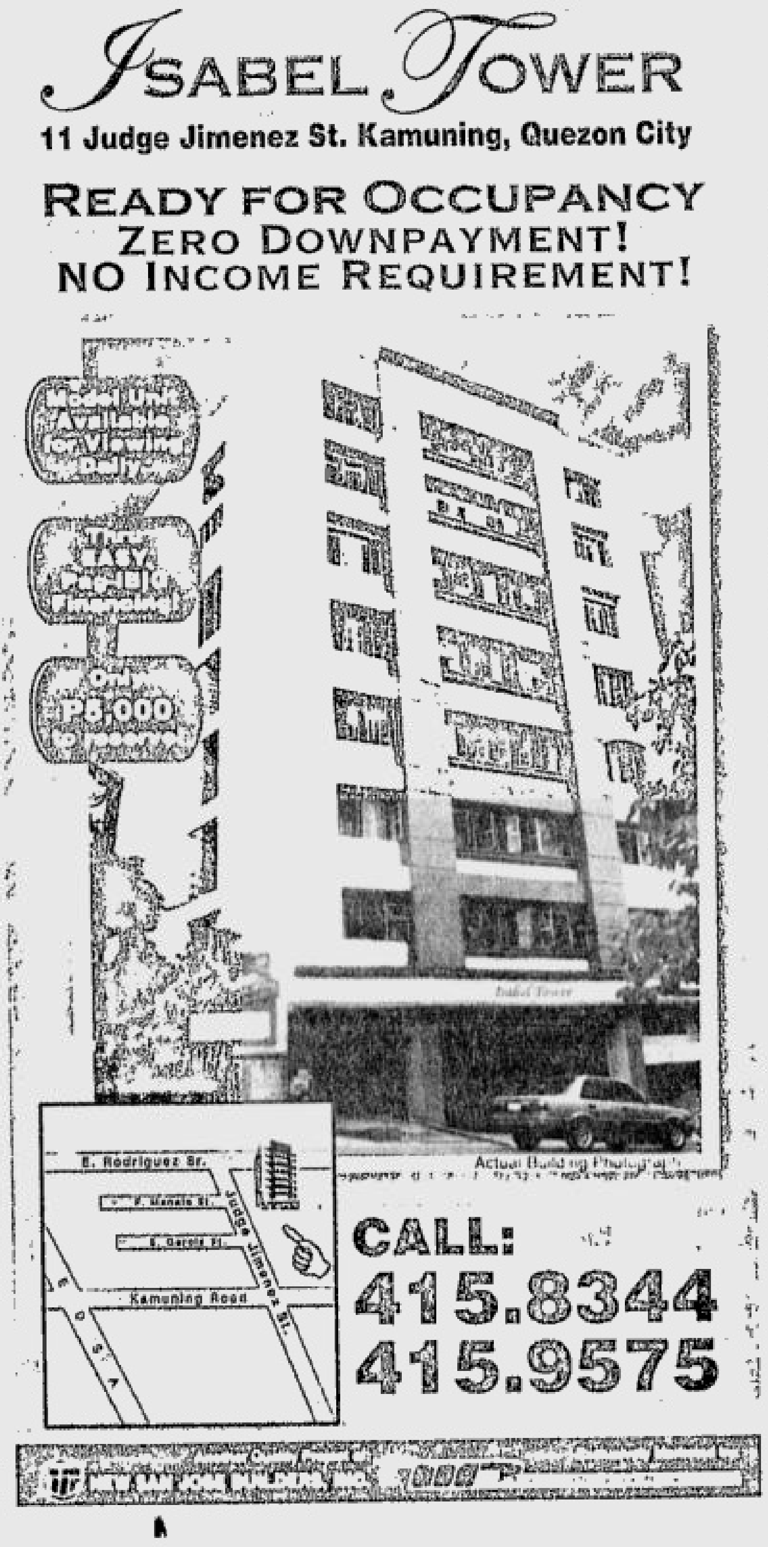
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Bill for Israel's settlement bid runs to billions

**By Amy Teibel
and Ramit Plushnick-Masti**

JERUSALEM—Israel's effort since the 1967 Mideast war to fill the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jews has grown from the scattered actions of zealous squatters into a network of 142 settlements that house nearly 240,000 people.

Now that Israel plans to spend some US$2 billion (euro1.6 billion) to dismantle just 25 of these enclaves in the West Bank and Gaza—for which US aid has been requested—it raises the question of how much money has been poured into the ambitious settlement project, and exactly where it came from.

The official answer: No one knows.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres estimates Israel has spent about US$50 billion (euro40 billion) since 1977, when the hardline Likud government took over from his Labor party. Other former finance ministers and government officials don't discount a price tag—commonly floated but never documented—of $60 billion (euro48.5 billion).

"No one eye in the world saw the whole picture," says Labor Party lawmaker Danny Yatom, a confidant of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Most of it is not camouflaged, but it is not possible to connect A to B to C to D to E to F to G."

Calculating an exact figure is impossible because much of the building was financed through winks and nods, an opaque state budget and secret military spending that sometimes violated Israel's laws and undercut international peacemaking efforts, according to official Israeli inquiries as well as Associated Press interviews with past and present officials, settlers and their opponents.

Among the methods used, the interviews show, were government subsidies, shadowy land deals, loopholes in military spending, and an auditing bait-and-switch in which US aid was used to free up billions of dollars for spending on the settlements formally opposed by the United States.

Even today, with preparations under way for demolishing 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank, housing and roads continue to be built in West Bank settlement blocs Israel wants to keep in a final peace deal with the Palestinians. This contradicts the internationally backed "road map" peace plan to halt settlement expansion.

And a government-commissioned inquiry in March revealed similar methods were used to build and expand dozens of unauthorized West Bank "outposts"—set up as flag-showing exercises and usually consisting of a handful of people in mobile homes.

It found widespread government complicity in establishing more than 100 such outposts, and the inquiry's chief, former prosecutor Talia Sasson, called the government's actions "a blatant violation of the law."

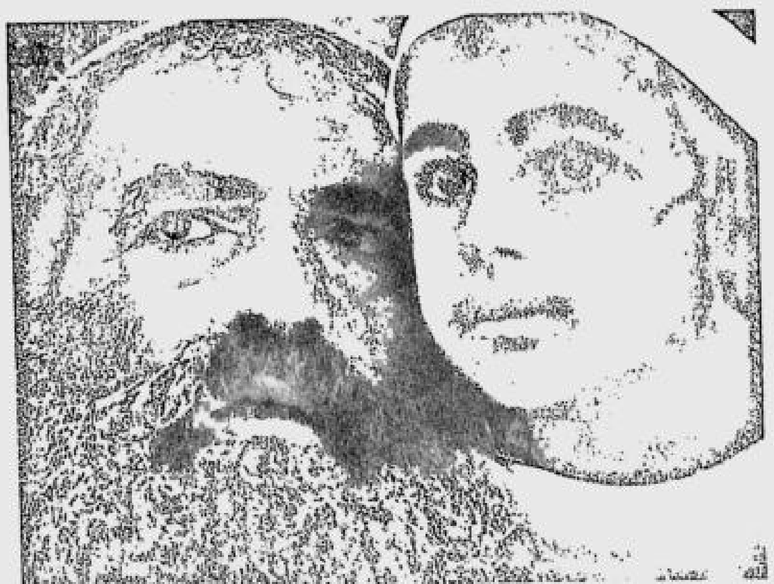
Last year, the funding of the outposts came in for sharp criticism from the State Comptroller, the government's main watchdog. It found at least two cases where the Housing Ministry funded outposts that the military had ordered demolished.

Now settler leaders, eager to embarrass Prime Minister Ariel Sharon over his Gaza withdrawal plan, say they had official backing in all their ventures.

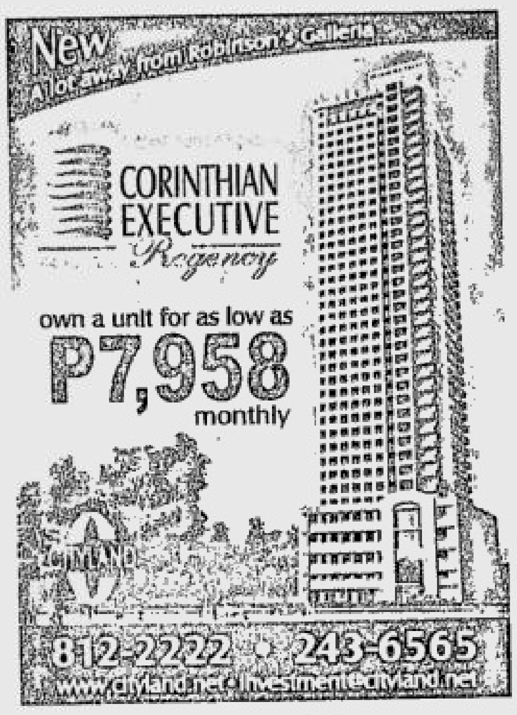
"Let me be very, very clear: It's not a question of dark-of-night grabs, or hide-and-seek or deceit on anyone's part," said lawmaker Yitzhak Levy of the pro-settler National Religious Party, who headed ministries in Likud and Labor governments.

"It is government policy," he said.

The settlements started after 1967 under Labor governments, which sought to confine them to border areas they considered necessary for national security. But then Likud came to power in 1977, claiming a God-given right to the whole West Bank and Gaza Strip. The chief settlement advocate was Ariel Sharon, the former general who—now as prime minister—has ordered the Gaza pullback. *AP*



JEWISH nationalist and a girl join a rally in Tel Aviv Aug. 11. Thousands of rightist Israelis opposed to a Gaza pullout rallied in what could be a final show of resolve to block evacuation of settlers from the occupied territory. REUTERS



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US colleges alter names to boost enrollment

SINCE Beaver College in the Philadelphia suburbs became Arcadia University four years ago, applications have doubled. Western Maryland College was also looking for a boost when it became McDaniel College in 2002. And California State University, Hayward, decided last January that a name change to California State University, East Bay, would help it reach out to students in new communities.

Names have gained increasing importance in the competitive world of higher education. As colleges jockey for market share, they are looking for names that project the image they want or reflect the changes they hope to make. Trenton State College, for example, became the College of New Jersey nine years ago when it began raising admissions standards and appealing to students from throughout the state.

"All I hear in higher education is, 'brand, brand, brand,'" said Tim Westerbeck, who specializes in branding and is managing director of Lipman Hearne, a marketing firm based in Chicago that works with universities and other nonprofit organizations. "There has been a sea change over the last 10 years. Marketing used to be almost a dirty word in higher education."

Names are important in the repositioning of colleges, but usually the process does not end there.

"The name becomes a powerful organizing principle for the product," Westerbeck, the branding expert, said. "It's the words and imagery of how the institution is going to be identified in the marketplace."

These days, he said, "every college and university is trying to articulate what makes it uniquely valuable."

Beaver College turned itself into Arcadia University in 2001 for several reasons: to sever the connection with its past as a women's college, to promote its growth into a full-fledged university and, officials acknowledged, to eliminate salacious jokes about the college's old name on late-night television and "morning zoo" radio shows. The college notes on its website that Arcadia was a picturesque region of Ancient Greece known for its peacefulness and simplicity and a place where poets and philosophers felt nurtured and free to pursue independent thought and artistic inquiry.

New York Times

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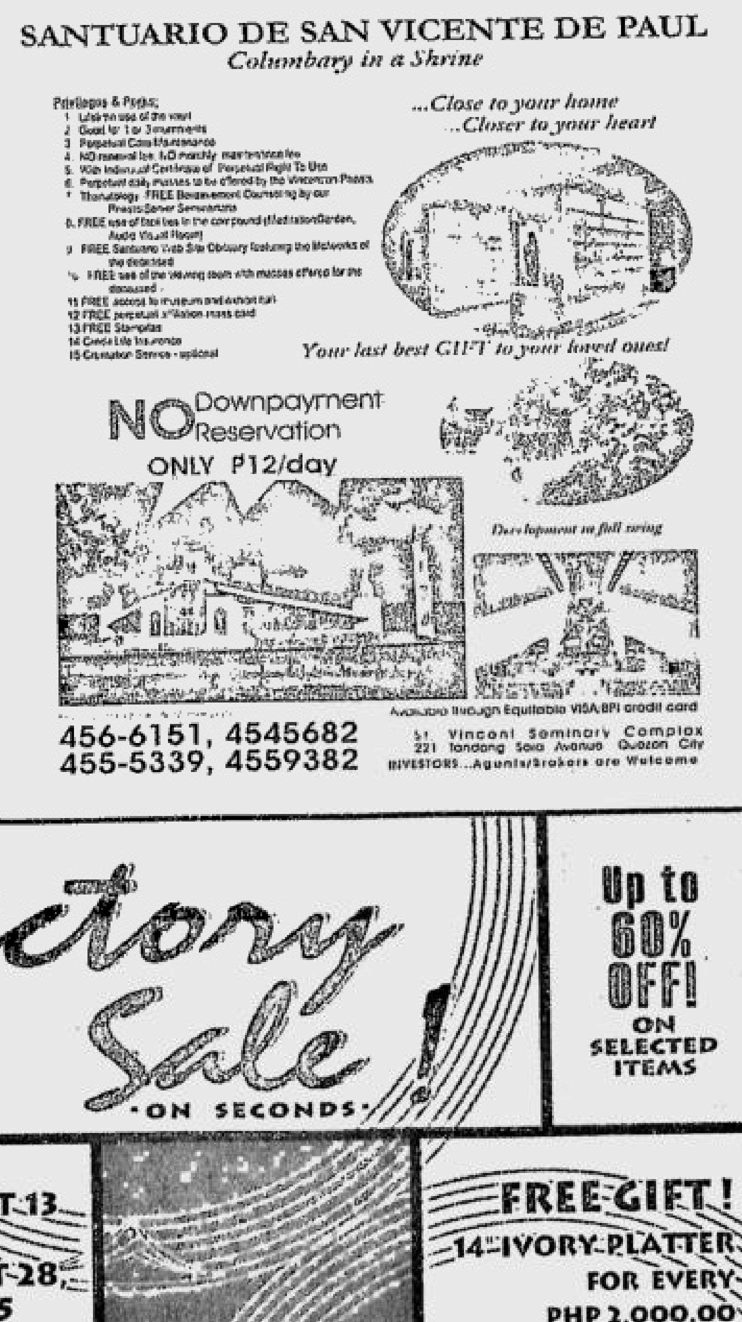

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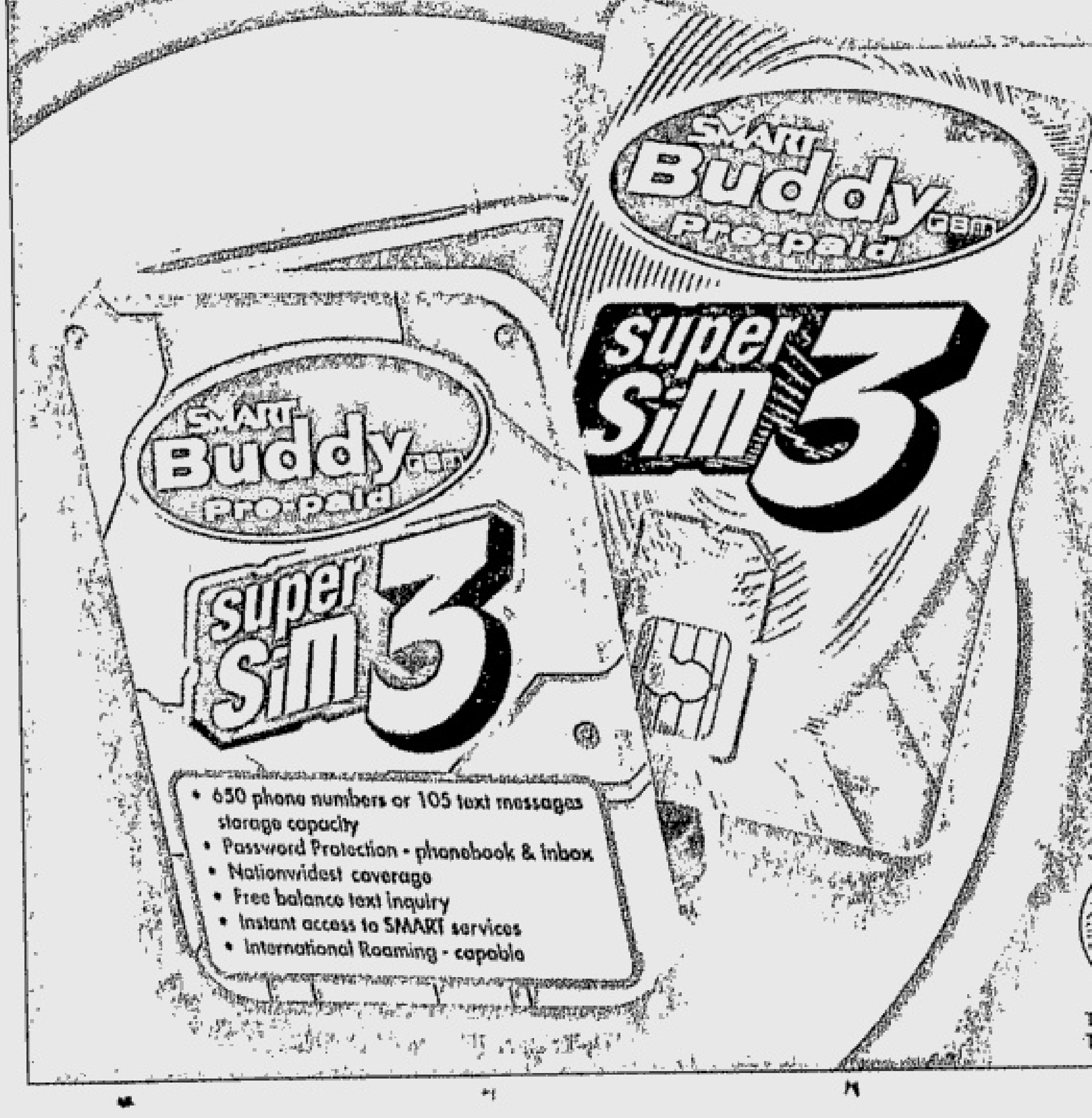

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Polling madness

EDITORIAL

FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel V. Ramos advised President Macapagal-Arroyo to look closely at the results of scientific surveys so she would know the sentiments of the people and improve her leadership. Ramos said scientific surveys serve as "a very accurate guide" of public opinion, but he didn't say clearly how the administration is supposed to respond to them.

If the President were to heed the results of the survey, she would have been gone from Malacañang even before the "Hello, Garci" tape scandal broke out. But even after a series of recent surveys showing more and more Filipinos having an unfavorable opinion of the President and the way she is running the government, Malacañang officials continue to say Ms Arroyo will not step down since surveys cannot substitute for an electoral mandate. Instead, the Palace continues to hope that public opinion will be kinder to Ms Arroyo, even if it is becoming increasingly difficult to see how it could be done. The times are hard and it looks like tougher times lie ahead for the Filipinos, with oil prices going through the roof and higher taxes looming in the horizon.

But there are surveys, and surveys. While most recent surveys have focused on the approval (or disapproval) ratings of the President as well as how the scandal that has been rocking her presidency ought to be resolved, there have been a few that seem to be of very little value or significance.

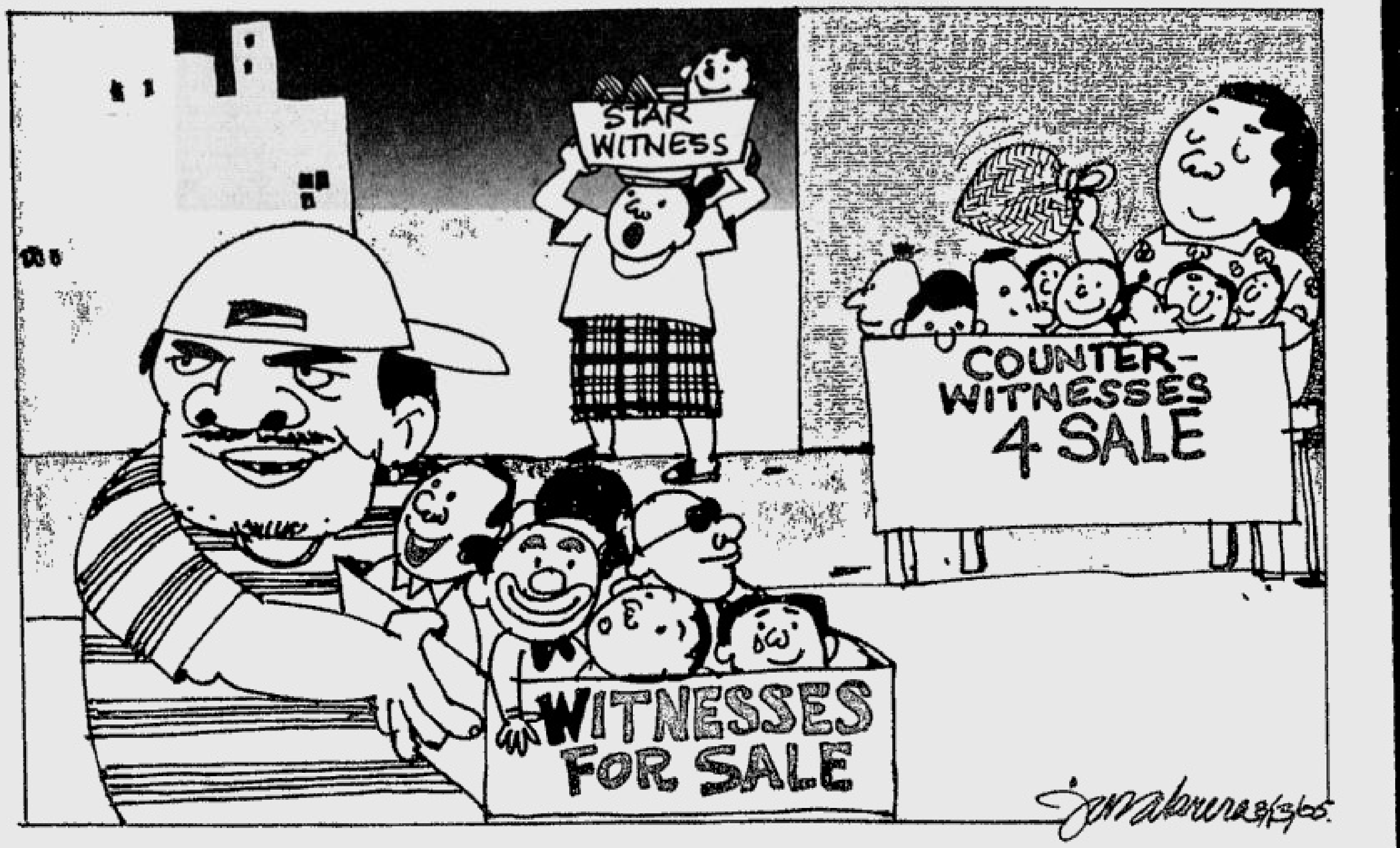
One was the mid-May survey of the Social Weather Stations on Charter change. The survey of 1,200 people nationwide showed that 70 percent didn't find anything in the present Constitution that needed to be changed. But the same survey found 73 percent of the respondents admitting that they had little or almost no knowledge of the Constitution. The only useful conclusion one can reach from such a survey is that Filipinos do not know their Constitution. But to cite the survey findings as an argument against Charter change would be a non sequitur. When people oppose something they don't even know, all they are saying is that they have a fear of the unknown. It is hard to say who is more foolish: the people who judge things they don't know or those who ask them to do so.

Such silly poll-taking apparently is not a monopoly of the SWS. Pulse Asia produced something very similar shortly before the President's State of the Nation Address last July 25. In its survey, done from July 2 to 14, Pulse Asia asked 1,200 respondents to rate, on a scale from 0 to 10, the incumbent President and her predecessors, starting from Ferdinand Marcos to Joseph Estrada, according to six criteria of good governance. Marcos topped the poll with a rating of 7, while Ms Arroyo trailed everyone else with a median rating of 4, which meant that half of those surveyed, gave her that rating or even lower.

Again it should be asked how relevant are such findings when very few people have a clear recollection of the Marcos martial law regime. Marcos' 20-year rule ended almost 20 years ago. Filipinos 35 years old and below, who make up a large portion of the total population, hardly know anything about martial law (that's how poorly we have educated our youth on history). So how could this particular segment of the sample population be expected to make sound judgments on the five different administrations? Is it fair to ask a person who has tasted only Coke all of his life to compare it with Pepsi? And can he be expected to give a meaningful answer?

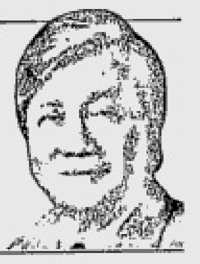
Obviously, the Arroyo administration fared very poorly in comparison with its predecessors, based on the survey findings. But what was the basis for the favorable verdict given to Marcos, especially by those who knew little more than that he was a past president? If Pulse Asia told us that the survey showed that familiarity breeds contempt in the case of Ms Arroyo and that absence makes the heart grow fonder in the case of Marcos, it might have brought us closer to the truth.

These efforts of our pollsters are truly pathetic. Like politicians aiming for a bombshell or the media on the lookout for a scoop, they seem to work at breakneck speed to conduct surveys, release the results and generally compete with the politicians and the media for the public spotlight. The trouble is that the relevance and import of some of their surveys have become more dubious, more suspect and even trivial.



An expensive superfluity

SEPARATE OPINION



Isagani A. Cruz

SO many lies have been bandied around these days, so let me talk about the Truth Commission. It is another fiction.

It is intended to examine the charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the legislative investigations, and possibly in her impeachment trial, about the Garci tapes and the *jueteng* scandal. If the reports are accurate, it is she who will create the Truth Commission, or more believably, she is at least proposing its creation by Congress.

As I have been mentioned for membership in the body, let me say at the outset that I am not interested. I am complimented by the suggestion but, on the remote assumption that I will be invited to it, I will gratefully decline. I am proud to say that I am *persona non grata* to both the administration and the opposition and have no wish to be identified with either of them.

Some self-appointed constitutional experts have opined that the Truth Commission is unconstitutional, but I do not think so. If its only purpose is to seek the truth, there is absolutely nothing wrong with it. But it would be different if its purpose was to twist the truth for the benefit of certain parties, be it Ms Arroyo or her critics. That would make it unreliable although still not unconstitutional.

What would make it unconstitutional is if the law were to provide that its findings would be legally binding and conclusive on the legislative investigating committees and also on the impeachment trial by the Senate. I do not think, however, that Congress, for all its follies, would be so foolish as to call for such ridiculous effect. Such a law would be invalid on its face for being incredibly presumptuous.

What then will be the use of the Truth Commission? Nothing. It would simply be the instrument for the ventilation of more lies by the parties peddling them for their own purposes. The members of the body would be the ineffectual audience and, worse, the unwilling purveyors of such propaganda. And all this would have to be done at considerable public expense.

The parties *pro* and *con* in the Arroyo drama have their own machines to publicize their respective positions, such as they are. The media can announce their arguments as news without cost of the taxpayers' money. Both the administration and the opposition have enough funds for this purpose without leaning on the Truth Commission for the dissemination of their conflicting ideas. Ordinary taxpayers do not have to contribute to the charade that is intended to deceive them.

The best argument that will render the proposed Truth Commission *hors de combat* is that its members will be appointed by President Arroyo. No one else can exercise that power under the Constitution. So, even if she discharges that function with utmost impartiality, there will still be that doubt in the public mind about her motives. Given her alleged indiscretions in the principal subjects to be investigated by the body, the Truth Commission will be dead even before it is born.

We had similar commissions in the past that were essentially fact-finding and without any adjudicatory powers. The Davide Commission during the Ramos administration and the Feliciano Commission to investigate the Oakwood mutiny enjoyed their brief glory but did not usurp judicial functions. The Narvasa Commission ordered by President Estrada to study changes in the Constitution was practically ignored although it also cost plenty of public funds.

Instead of wasting money on the Truth Commission, the government could spend for the resolute search and apprehension of Virgilio Garcillano, whose presence and testimony are necessary for the investigation by the five committees of the House of Representatives of the alleged irregularities in the presidential elections last year. Public funds intended for the Truth Commission could be better used for the protection of witnesses afraid to testify in the jueteng probe being conducted by the Senate.

If these objectives are unwelcome to the government, the money that can be saved by not creating the Truth Commission can be devoted to the purchase of school equipment and supplies for the 30,000 classrooms established by President Arroyo, as announced in her Sona, or the distribution of medicines to the poor, or the feeding of the street children, beggars, and other worthy projects. The Truth Commission is not one of them.

The investigation and resolution of public issues should be undertaken by the legislative committees or the courts of justice and not the Truth Commission. In the case of impeachment, the proper and exclusive venue is the Senate. The Truth Commission can only be an interloper exercising improper functions for no other purpose than to promote partisan ends and personal egotism. It can only be an expensive superfluity that should not be allowed to exist.

An ouster call in Batangas

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

BATANGAS State University (BSU) president Ernesto De Chavez is using President Macapagal-Arroyo as his model in refusing to leave his post. Reacting to a demonstration by faculty and students who demanded that he step down, De Chavez said in a press conference held last Saturday: "*Ang Presidente nga ng Pilipinas nira-rally araw-araw at gustong patalsikin pero hindi pa rin umaalis...normal na 'yang rally dahil sa ekonomiya natin. Hindi ako aalis sa puwesto.* (Daily rallies are being held against the President of the Philippines by people who want to boot her out, but she still doesn't leave...those rallies are normal because of the state of our economy. I will not leave my post.) If I leave the post I will be charged of (sic) abandonment by the Board of Regents."

I guess misery loves company. But the parallel that De Chavez tries to draw is simply not there. Charges have been filed against him, formal investigations have been conducted, and after due process, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo ruled last July 12 that "Respondents De Chavez, Lontoc Sr., Ligaya and Lontoc Jr. are hereby found guilty of Dishonesty and Grave Misconduct and are, thus, meted the penalty of Dismissal from the Service..."

The student-faculty demonstrations occurred because he refused to leave. In the Arroyo case, the demonstrations are being held to pressure her into resigning even before impeachment proceedings have followed their due course and before she has been found guilty.

Moreover, while Ms Arroyo recognizes the authority of Congress to impeach her and is ready to step down if found guilty by the Senate, BSU's De Chavez does not recognize the authority of the Ombudsman who, he claims, has no right to discipline him, because only BSU's board of regents (BOR) has the appointing and disciplining authority over him. To quote him again: "We are not even under the CHED or Civil Service. We have our own charter, *meron kaming* BOR. We are with CHED but we are not under CHED. *Hinihintay lamang namin ang anumang magiging desisyon ng Civil Service Commission at nakahanda kaming sagutin ito.*" (We are just awaiting whatever will be the decision of the Civil Service Commission and we are ready to respond to it.)

Whew. That's pretty arrogant stuff and fuzzy thinking. The Ombudsman does have administrative authority over all government officials, to which category state university officials belong. Yes, the BOR is the appointing power, but there are limits to its independence. In the case of the BSU, the BOR chair is CHED Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo Jr., with the chairpersons of the Senate and House education committees and the Neda regional director as members. They are surely aware of their powers and responsibilities.

But what exactly did De Chavez and others—including a brother-in-law who is BSU's vice president for academic affairs and a nephew (the brother-in-law's son)—do to merit the dismissal? Per the Supplemental Resolution of Ombudsman Marcelo, first, there was the matter of the unauthorized collection of graduation fees, with no official receipts issued, and with the collected fees never deposited in a government bank for the account of the BSU.

Then, it seems, the De Chavez family (including brother-in-law) was involved in the business of renting caps and gowns, and apparently used its members' position to become the exclusive supplier of these paraphernalia to the faculty and graduating students.

In addition, De Chavez and his nephew were found by the Ombudsman to have collected Internet fees from students (again with no official receipts) with the funds deposited in their joint account. The funds were transferred to the regular trust fund of BSU 18 months later, only after charges were filed against them—but with a shortfall.

Furthermore, there are matters like the collection of on-the-job training/related learning experience fees (again with no official receipts and funds deposited in a non-government bank); the conduct of comprehensive examinations and the (unauthorized) collection of fees. The Ombudsman has also asked the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to look into charges of nepotism and other administrative issues.

Why then, despite the Ombudsman's resolution, dated July 12, 2005—finding De Chavez, et al., guilty of dishonesty and grave misconduct, with a penalty of dismissal—is De Chavez still in his post (and reportedly wreaking all kinds of vengeance)? Is the BOR, as some detractors claim, in his pocket?

Nothing Machiavellian here. The simple reason is that the Office of the Ombudsman did not send a copy of its resolution to the BOR with the request that the latter implement it—instead, the resolution asks the CSC to implement it. So the BOR is still awaiting formal notice from the Ombudsman or the CSC although it is informally aware of the decision and has already initiated consultations and made contingency plans, BOR Chair Ocampo said. CSC Chair Karina David says that her office is puzzled that the Ombudsman has asked them to implement what the latter should be doing itself, hence the delay.

A bureaucratic snafu? No. Ombudsman Marcelo is not dumb. It turned out that he issued the resolution while there was some legal question about his office's powers. But since then, the Supreme Court has come up with a definitive ruling that, indeed, the OO does have administrative authority over all government officials other than those who are impeachable.

So it is not the case that De Chavez is following in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's footsteps. It may in fact be the other way around.

Shoe on the other foot

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN YESTERDAY'S press conference, Secretary Michael Defensor sought to show that portions of the "Hello Garci tapes" had been tampered with, seriously putting their credibility in question. This is a crucial point, as the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo is anchored on the opposition's accusation that she ordered Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano—as caught in the tapes—to doctor the results of the 2004 elections. Defensor employed the help of local recording experts who claimed that the tapes were full of "spikes," "artifacts" from previous recordings that were not cut properly, "ghost peaks" and "noise floor" variances. These points were doubtless too technical for many in the audience. But two things stood out which reinforce his theory.

* * *

First, he cited the opinion of Barry Dickey of Audio Evidence Laboratory in Texas, who studied the tapes. Defensor stressed that Dickey didn't understand the conversations but clearly saw there were splices and other anomalies in them. In fact, Defensor noted that the American expert said that if those tapes had been presented to the US Congress as evidence, they would surely have been dumped into the waste basket. Dickey's credentials as a "conversation expert" are unassailable—he is the same expert whom CNN, Fox News and other big media outlets in the United States had consulted in the authentication of the voice of Osama Bin Laden at the height of the US anti-terrorism campaign. He is said to have handled over 1,000 cases of authentication.

Second, Defensor played two recordings of the same track. One featured a voice sounding like GMA's: "Will I still lead by one million votes?" The other recording featured a similar voice, but this time asking, "Will FPJ still lead by one million votes?" Defensor said the first query was extracted from the Paguia tapes, while he admitted that his group doctored the second query to prove that the tapes can indeed be spliced. The presentation of the two queries stumped the media.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson's immediate reaction was to discredit Defensor's findings, as they were based on the Paguia tapes which the senator termed "garbage." Lacson asserted that it's now a question of the "integrity" of the tapes. It's curious that he's now mouthing the administration line of several months ago—a case of the shoe on the other foot, again. If the opposition now regards the Paguia tapes as "garbage," why did it submit those to Congress? *Ginago sila*—isn't this an insult to the House members?

I have been arguing from the time these tapes first surfaced that Congress cannot give them serious consideration as no one knows which are the authentic ones and which are not. In fact, the first thing a responsible Congress should have done was to determine the authenticity of those tapes—but the committees were in a hurry to impugn the President's reputation. Now, after interminable hearings, we're back to square one.

Dickey is right: any right-thinking Congress will never consider tapes that are illegally acquired and tampered as "evidence" against a president. The House members should throw them out now.

* * *

Last July 8, the bloody Friday that saw four different groups make a concerted move to oust GMA, Speaker Jose de Venecia, former President Fidel Ramos, many House members and local executives launched a counter-attack that helped tilt the balance of power in her favor. As media noted, JDV summoned the various pro-GMA forces while in the midst of an award ceremony at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, where he was awarded for outstanding service as the "champion of OFW remittances."

JDV was recognized for "his vision and pioneering work in harnessing the dollar remittance of Filipinos abroad in the '60s, which today has become the massive remittances program that's helping to propel the economy forward." Then a young diplomat and presidential adviser, JDV conceived of capturing and putting to productive use some $300 million in earnings of Pinoys mostly in the United States and Canada. As the BSP put it, JDV's program was hailed by the press as "the most brilliant monetary maneuver in recent times," with the US government putting its stamp of approval. Today, his brainchild has ballooned into a program of over $8 billion yearly, and still growing. Musing over it recently, he cracked to House colleagues that if only he got a 1-percent commission from the BSP for the $100 billion since derived from the OFW remittance program, that would have meant a clear $1 billion for him. Even at one-half percent, quipped JDV, that would still be $500 million!

* * *

Over the past two days, over 50 governors met in Manila to organize the drive for Charter change. The initial sessions were devoted to familiarizing the participants with the parliamentary/federal form of government. Within two weeks, the local executives will meet again to formalize their grass-roots organization. There seems to be no stopping the Cha-cha movement.

GMA made a surprise appearance last Thursday, during which she promised to deliver the balance of the internal revenue allotment withheld by her predecessors. The governors agreed that they would plow this amount back to GMA's 10-point program. It's no secret that a key pillar of her support derives from the local executives and, at that meeting, they were unabashed with their feelings for her. In fact, many of the governors, described in an earlier INQUIRER article as being in the "neutral" column in the political crisis, assured her that they belong in the pro-GMA column. Among them are South Cotabato's Daisy Fuentes, Bulacan's Josie de la Cruz, Aurora's Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Occidental Mindoro's Josephine Sato, and Zambales' Vicente Magsaysay. In fact, Magsaysay drew howls of "*sip-sip*" when he told GMA, "I think we are all falling in love with you, Madame President."

Dinky's 'mea culpa'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S the second part of former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman's letter to friends explaining her reasons for leaving the Cabinet and calling for the President to resign as well. Here, Dinky shares her discomforts with the "dissonance" she encountered as part of the administration, trying to incorporate her principles and values, imbibed since her days as a development worker, in her role as a government official while trying to live with the demands of political accommodation. If this be a belated "mea culpa," then credit Dinky at least with the courage to make it public.

* * *

THE REFORMS that are needed to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty require sacrifice from all sectors. There are those who need to give up a significant amount of power and prestige; there are those who will have to tighten their belts because to raise revenues for poverty reduction programs of government, we need to discipline ourselves and raise tax collection. This has impact on the working class, thus they must also sacrifice over and above their own current struggles.

To move the country forward, we need a leader who can unite the country and undertake these difficult reforms. Unfortunately, the President herself is the cause of the division. While we are still struggling to ferret out the truth from all the scandals, she introduces another issue which will cause more division among us... Charter change. And yet she also agreed to have a Truth Commission which she will organize to investigate her actions. And over the past four weeks we have seen the resources of the government brought to bear on a media blitz to recover her image. Time and energy of Cabinet members have been used to defend the President and do things other than their work in their own departments. This is a President who is fighting for survival.

* * *

ONE question that has been often asked is, if I stayed four years and a half ...was I not part of the mistake? I was. I believe that PGMA is a product of her own personal history. She was exposed (to) and has accepted the practices of traditional politics such as pay backs, pay ups, operations of dirty tricks; at the same time she also believed in instituting reforms in the economic, social and governance spheres using principles of transparency, accountability, and service to the people. She believed that both worlds can exist in one person and the dissonance and disconnect will not clash in her and in her actions.

On hindsight, the same thing happened to me. I was able to develop a team in DSWD that crafted and implemented a community-driven development program which was funded by the government through a $100-million loan from the World Bank. It brought to the most marginalized communities the opportunity to use their power to analyze the situation and develop solutions that will be implemented by the community and there will be resources made available to them through the projects. It was an empowerment program that had resources and scale. It was so consistent with my vision of power to the people and it covered 5,000 barangays.

To get support for this program, I had to work with the rest of the Cabinet and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I had to be and was a team player. So on the many times that protesters and critics of the administration (would) be mobilized, I was to be part of the team, if not leading the effort of what I call now domesticating tactics. I had directed my colleagues in DSWD to prepare packages of goodies for the urban poor communities as either part of raffle draws, food for work and family day activities to keep them from joining the rallies. We even had medical civic action that had circumcision as part of the package. I admit I was one of those who crafted that strategy; I thought that rather than getting the urban poor out in the rallies with the potential of getting pounced upon or even violently dispersed, it was better for them to stay in the community.

* * *

IN THE MEANTIME, most of those who wanted numbers in the street began giving cash incentives for the people to stand an hour or two for their rallies. The sacred right to stand up for your voice and be heard in the street... the right that many of my friends had died for, was now a commercial transaction. Truly, this has led to the commoditization of rights. This to me is the height of insult to the poor because we know that they need the money thus we bought their time ...but it was not only their time that we bought...we bought their soul and in the process destroyed our own, too. Sadly, this was being done by the opposition and the government.

So as I was undertaking the empowerment processes in the KALAHI-CIDSS area, I was part of the domesticating process of the urban poor communities. The urban poor organizations whom I was relating with began to see me as their patron as they (would) get favors or first information on the benefits from government.

I was living two sets of values now. I was like PGMA. I was contradicting myself and counteracting my programs. Like PGMA proclaims transparency and accountability but has several parallel operations for an issue.

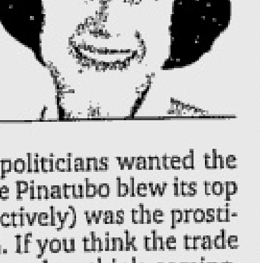
We were buying (the) loyalty of the people. Instead of serving the people as part of the responsibility of government, instead of recognizing that the services we were providing were the rights of the citizenry, we invoked the *utang-na-loob* syndrome, exacting loyalty instead of recognizing that it is the right of the citizen and the taxpayer, to exact services and programs from government. We used our resources and power to domesticate the urban poor. I violated a basic principle which I had fought for for so long, empowerment of people...I was party to their disempowerment.

(To be concluded)

The laughingstock of Asia

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



REMEMBER how we liked to point out that we're the only Catholic country in Asia and how millions of us showed up for Pope John Paul II's visit? Come to think of it, I even remember seeing Ernie Maceda being one of the first to receive communion during the Pope's visit. I think he was on the dais with all the other VIPs. We take pride in the fact that our churches are filled to the brim on Sundays, First Fridays and other holidays of obligation, compared to the near empty churches of Europe. We love to begin our seminars and conventions and workshops with invocations, together with the National Anthem no less.

That being the case and given that we revel in the image of this God-fearing people who support orphanages and feeding programs and all sorts of projects for street children, haven't you wondered why the gap between the haves and the have-nots has evolved into a humongous chasm these past three decades? How come some people have a dozen cars in their driveway (not to mention owning submarines and yachts) so that it looks like a used-car lot, while there are entire communities living under the South Superhighway? Or that we have one of the highest poverty indexes in the world (nearly half the population subsists on less than $2 a day)? It wasn't always like that, so what happened and when did we begin to lose our bearings?

GQ Magazine in its August issue has an article, "Pleasure, at Any Price" that discusses the sex trade in Luzon (and elsewhere, true) but the near-nude colored photos are of Filipinas. The trade is illegal here, unlike in South and Central America where perhaps the former Spanish colonies are less hypocritical. According to the article by Sean Flynn, the bars are everywhere in our cities with signs that say, "Thank you. Cumm again," (wink...wink) and there are girls in every one of them waiting. You can buy a girl for a couple of drinks, a different one every night and even every hour—there are so many of them.

One of the reasons the politicians wanted the American bases out (before Pinatubo blew its top and settled the matter effectively) was the prostitution it allegedly fostered. If you think the trade has stopped, you've got another think coming. Along Fields Avenue in Angeles City, there's Club Fantastic, Camelot and Stinger and a host of others. On the sidewalks vendors sell shirts that proclaim: "I f--k on the first date." In a bar called G-Spot Lounge, there's a girl gyrating onstage in a bikini. Her birth certificate states that she's 19 but actually she's only 13. Most of the girls onstage, serving the drinks, fraternizing with the customers, are all underage (if you start at 12 or 13, you're old in five years' time and the only place for you is some roadside establishment outside Bulacan or Tarlac). The girls are paid P120 to wear bikinis from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., dance for half an hour, work the room until their turn to dance. If she leaves with a customer, she makes $9.

Yes, it is economics and, yes, according to religious mores and feminist theory, this is wrong and sinful and oppressive, but then what are the options? And who's providing them? In high-end clubs in Manila, according to Flynn, a girl works nine hours, entertains five or six men and earns $30. I don't know if that's net or whether you still have to give your pimp or the *mamasan* a cut.

It hasn't quite squared in my mind how we can justifiably state our Catholicism with a straight face and yet achieve the No. 2 (or is it No. 1?) position on the list of most corrupt countries. Or the fact that there are over 200,000 street children in Metro Manila alone. Yet the government does little to curb a runaway population growth, frightened of a Church backlash in the next election. We may have anywhere between 500,000 and 800,000 prostitutes, and certainly we aren't the only Third World country in the world with that problem. Of course in those countries, the churches aren't crawling with the faithful going to Mass and communion daily.

But that isn't the only reason we should put on sack cloths and ashes. This past week, CNN ran a short exposé on children below the age of 10 sharing jails with hardened criminals who beat them up if they refuse to have sex with them. There are, in case you missed the documentary, 20,000 of these children, one of them as young as 5 years old. This is not the first time any of us has heard of it; one wonders what social welfare secretaries have to add that would be any different from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's pathetic whimpering about resenting being asked the question of what government was doing about it. (Remember the 70 congressmen who went abroad for conferences or whatever recently with a per diem of $300 a day?) On the other hand, what could Gonzalez say in defense? The government has a lot of priorities *daw* and no money. (No, I won't remind you of those 70 morons again who don't appear embarrassed about the horrors poverty has bred here.) But I will mention that despite the wave of development sweeping our neighbors, we remain extremely poor, mismanaged and still predominantly agrarian when we were second only to Japan in the 1960s, so why shouldn't we be laughingstock of Asia?

So before getting on your high horse the next time someone makes a disparaging remark about the country, ask yourself how true it is and what the government is doing about it.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Please don't harm me

YOUNG BLOOD

Leslie E. Vicente

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DON'T harm me. Please. I only have a few pesos in my wallet. Please do not take away my mobile phone because I don't have enough money to buy a replacement. Yes, this is a laptop. But it is the company's property, not mine. I cannot afford to lose all the important files it contains and work for a few months without compensation.

Four months ago when I moved near your place, I immediately had this fear of ending up one day another victim of violence. Forgive me for entertaining this thought. But every morning when I pass in front of that wretched shanty, I see you staring at me. Your filthy shirt probably has not been washed for at least a month and your hair has grown thick with dirt and dust. When I go home late at night after working overtime, I see you loitering in the neighborhood.

Among those who usually hang out in the street corner, you must be the most destitute. You cannot even afford a bottle of beer. While others drown themselves in alcohol and laugh at stories that have been retold so many times, you just stand there silent. While others have some miserable shelter of their own, you are homeless. When I come home late, I see you lying half-asleep on the cold, rough concrete sidewalk, with your arms folded to keep yourself warm.

You must be 28 years old. Despite the lack of proper nourishment, you look like you are capable of working. What happened to you and to the rest of your group? Your eyes tell a dozen stories about poverty and your constant struggle to sustain a seemingly hopeless existence. And I am bothered by the choices you have to make to feed your empty stomach. I fear you. I fear them.

One Friday morning, my roommate who has the same work as mine came home shivering in fear. It was about 2:30 a.m. She told me a man had grabbed her bag and tried to pull it away. She screamed for help. Alarmed, the robber fled.

If all he wanted (or got) was money, then the damage would not be too much. But what if in the process, the victim got seriously hurt or even killed? The daily news constantly remind us that we live in a world that is increasingly becoming dangerous.

You might not believe me, but my heart grieves when I see you suffer. I can see myself in your shoes. My heart bleeds because I know there is very little I can do to help you. A piece of bread and a few coins would not be enough to sustain you for a day. You cannot count on others to always give you alms. Most people's paychecks are not enough to provide for their own families.

You need a job that would make you self-reliant. Unfortunately, I am just a 22-year-old employee, so I cannot offer you one. In fact, I know a number of jobless college graduates who are seeking the same assistance. I honestly do not know how to help you but I think there are things you can do to help yourself.

Do you see that old man with a fish-ball stand over there? How about those kids who go from house to house collecting empty bottles? Do you notice the peddlers roving around in the intense heat just to sell their goods? I do not know how much they earn or whether they earn enough to be able to eat three times a day. But I admire their industry and their perseverance as they struggle to survive.

I do not know your life story. But whatever happened to you in the past, you cannot change it. This is the world we live in now, whether we like it or not. This is what things have become. This is what we have become.

To some extent, I fear those suspicious-looking people I ride with in a jeepney or in the MRT. I am wary of the driver when I take a taxi home late at night. My heart beats faster when I pass by people drinking on the sidewalk as I hurry to my place every time our area is closed to vehicles. I take note of the people around me whenever I go to crowded areas.

We live in an age when one can never be too cautious. Otherwise, we might find our wallets missing or our house emptied of valuables and appliances. We might be kidnapped or raped or even murdered. And it really upsets me to realize that the people who could do these things to us are our own people and that things like these happen in our homeland.

Yes, I fear you. And I fear them.

Nevertheless, you deserve my gratitude. Every day when I whine about how difficult my work is, you remind me how fortunate I am. You make me grateful for what I am and for what I have.

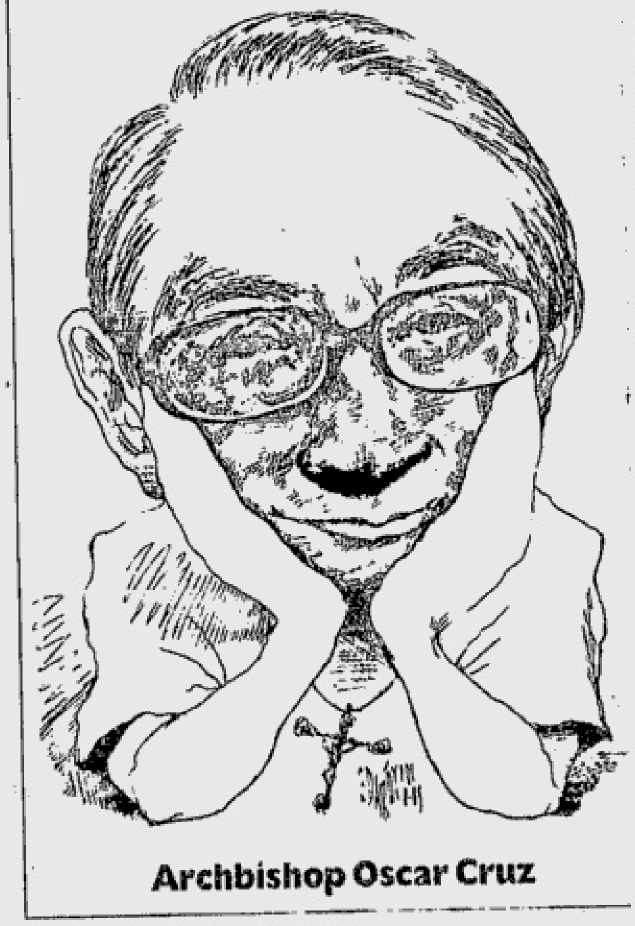
My faith is strengthened every time I say a prayer that I may arrive home safe and sound. My trust in Him is the only shield I have.

Although I try to convince myself that you have no intention of hurting people, I cannot get rid of this fear. Please, don't harm me.

And please do not look at me like that. I won't get your knapsack.

Leslie E. Vicente, 22, is a certified public accountant at Joaquin Cunanan & Co. In college, she was the editor of White&Blue, the official student publication of Saint Louis University in Baguio City.

IN THE NEWS



Archbishop Oscar Cruz

Substantive justice against procedural technicalities

ALTHOUGH the process of impeachment is available, there is a mounting call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, which is anchored on the belief that in these abnormal times, one more day of her administration is another day of moral erosion and economic recession.

Impeachment is one of the modes of removing a president, but only the House of Representatives has the power to initiate an impeachment, and only the Senate has the power to try and decide impeachment cases. At least one-third of all the members of the House is needed either to affirm a favorable resolution of the committee on justice, while at least two-thirds of all senators is necessary to convict.

The opposition congressmen pushing for GMA's impeachment still do not have the required number to automatically transmit the petition for impeachment to the Senate.

Second, according to news reports, they were caught flatfooted when GMA's lawyer filed a formal answer to the original impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano. Under the Rules of Court, they may no longer amend the aforesaid original complaint when there is already an answer. Thus, the majority congressmen defending GMA will have a reason to oppose the amended impeachment complaint filed last July 25.

Third, according to Rep. Prospero Pichay, the amended impeachment complaint is considered a new complaint. Under the law, only one impeachment complaint is allowed per year. If such is the case, considering that an impeachment complaint had been filed earlier, the July 25 amended complaint will be considered a third complaint and will have to wait until 2007 to be heard.

Fourth, Rep. Prospero Nograles has come out with an opinion that even if the opposition mustered the necessary one-third vote, the fact that the impeachment complaint is already with the committee on justice, it will have to stay there until after a committee report is submitted to the plenary session. Therefore, the committee on justice can sit on it for at most 60 session days or about six months, considering that there are no sessions during Fridays.

Fifth, the impeachment rules have not yet been formulated up to this time. The congressmen seem to be busier with the proposed Charter change than with the impeachment proceedings. Hence, the committee on justice cannot act yet on the impeachment complaint.

Substantive justice should be given emphasis vis-à-vis procedural technicalities. Technicalities should aid, not impede, substantive justice although they are important for well-ordered proceedings. Would it not be a monstrous parody of justice if the members of the House inflicted serious injustice just for the sake of technicality?

—EMMANUEL LJ. MAPILI,
House of Representatives
Electoral Tribunal,
Commonwealth Avenue, QC

Just to protect EPCIB's clients and stakeholders

IN THE INTEREST of fairness, please allow me to respond to the column of Conrado Banal III published in the Aug. 2 issue of the INQUIRER.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is mandated to promote and maintain the soundness and stability of our banking sector. Equitable PCIBank is one of the major banks in our country today. Thus, while the issue concerning EPCIB is an intra-corporate dispute involving its stockholders, the BSP is mindful of its possible adverse effect on the bank's depositors and other stakeholders. This is the rationale behind our efforts to encourage the parties to arrive at an amicable solution to this intra-corporate dispute.

The BSP's initiatives resulted in the issuance by the two groups of a "joint statement of support" to reassure the public that while there are contrasting views on some shareholder issues, they "remain united in our trust in the professionalism and competence of the bank's Management Team." The statement was signed by Corazon S. de la Paz, president and CEO of the Social Security System; Winston F. Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System; Antonio L. Go for the Go Family; and lawyer Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez for Trans Middle East Corp.

The statement further declared that "the bank is operating as usual and is ready to address the banking requirements of its customers." Thus, even as the two parties have gone to the courts over shareholder issues, the proper fora for resolving this dispute, the bank continues to operate normally. On the other hand, the parties going to court does not mean that the door to amicable settlement is closed. We believe that an amicable settlement is still the best way to resolve the problem; but our role is to encourage the parties to find an equitable middle ground, not to impose a sell-out formula.

The singular objective of the BSP is the protection of the bank's depositors and other stakeholders. We believe that the BSP's initiatives in this particular case are serving this purpose.

—AMANDO M. TETANGCO JR.,
governor,
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas,
A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila

LETTERS

Fil-Am is wrong on RP politics

I READ Rina David's column, "A Fil-Am's view." (PDI, 7/29/05) I live in the United States, and from what I see and hear, Filipinos are also divided on the issue that is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Not everyone shares the view of JP Paredes. Frankly, Paredes is looking through an "American" looking glass, thus he applies a different set of standards with regard to Philippine politics. If he turns his sight on the opposition, he will see how terribly underhanded and ruthless the opposition has been, how it has been responsible for most of the troubles we are now facing. It is easy for him to demand GMA's resignation as he would be far removed from its effects. Calling the President and her family "stooges" and "squatters" already makes his opinion suspect, malicious and below the belt.

A lot of people in the media have already decided what the "truth" is. Just like Paredes, they have already acted as judge, jury and executioner, peppering their arguments with such nonsense as "moral ascendancy" and "moral regeneration" from a high perch. I think their arguments are all hogwash, intended to make them feel righteous and important.

These are not the martial law years, where people are being killed left and right simply on suspicion of being a communist or a criminal. People should be able to defend themselves. Erap was given a chance to defend himself. I think GMA deserves that chance, too, regardless of the opinion of any "high and mighty" Fil-Am. I also think GMA should be given the chance to finish her term without the constant sniping from the opposition. She won that election and she should be able to complete her term.

—ARIEL TORRES,
PhilRamone@aol.com

Inquirer makes right call

I CONGRATULATE the INQUIRER for its July 23 editorial, titled "Plan B."

In pursuing my electoral protest against Noli de Castro, I am fully aware of the critical circumstances besetting the nation because of, among other things, the filing of impeachment complaints against the incumbent President and the incessant public clamor for her resignation.

I assure the public that, in the face of the acute political and economic crises, facing our country, personal ambition is the least of my concerns. I fully agree with your editorial: because of the crises deeply dividing our people, the "country therefore needs to know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, who the rightful successor of the President is."

Please be assured that for my part I have been doing everything and will continue to do everything in my power to facilitate and accelerate the proceedings on my protest, which I filed on July 23 last year with the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. It may be recalled, my protest was filed together with the one lodged by Fernando Poe Jr., who ran for president under the opposition banner of the Koalisyong ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, with me as his vice-presidential candidate.

Unfortunately, Poe's protest was dismissed because of his untimely demise. As a result—as your editorial correctly surmises—my protest is the only way our people could discern the true results of the presidential and vice-presidential election of 2004—considering that Congress, acting as the National Board of Canvassers, refused to act but only "noted" the opposition's objections to clearly falsified certificates of canvass.

My lawyers have done everything possible to facilitate the process for the resolution of my protest. On my part, I have already deposited more than P4 million to start the recount. But unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the lawyers of De Castro, who have continued to throw roadblocks along the way—including the filing of uncalled for motions to dismiss—even though the PET has already given due course to my protest. In the preliminary conference of the lawyers last July 12, they even objected to our motion for the PET to immediately retrieve the contested ballot boxes for safekeeping.

I wish to use this occasion to thank the INQUIRER for calling the attention of De Castro's lawyers not to further delay the proceedings for the sake of the higher national interest. I also hope that the honorable members of the Supreme Court, who also constitute the PET, would take due consideration of the newspaper's incisive editorial.

—LOREN LEGARDA

A trivial offense, another lapse

IN ONE of his recent columns, Neal Cruz stated: "The fact alone that a candidate (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) entertained Comelec officials at her home before an election is already a violation of our laws and rules of ethical conduct. No amount of media blitz or evasive answers can change those facts. She willfully violated our laws and that makes her unfit to be the leader of our nation."

Such comments have become laughable. The President remains in power despite the "Hello Garci" scandal. What makes Cruz think that this "minor" violation of the law has any bearing at all? Compared to the "Hello Garci" scandal, the dinner with Comelec officials is nothing but another trivial incident. Even if GMA admits that she invited the whole Comelec and gave its staff "envelopes," those acts can be excused as just another social gathering and as another lapse in judgment.

Her willful violations of the law have become a common, everyday thing. She is still in power and will stay in power for as long as she likes, because in her eyes the Filipino people don't care anymore. I am sure she has even become bolder now, as can be discerned in her speeches. She and her family will keep on looting the country because the Filipinos have become uncaring victims ready to let an erring President get whatever she wants.

—MARK LEE,
drlee90210@yahoo.com

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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Of sea tides and gravity

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tacloban City

NOW, EVEN grade school pupils can explain that high and low tides of the sea are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon.

And some calendars freely given out by business establishments at yearend include phases of the moon and measurements of seawater levels on specific days of the year.

But how did mankind reckon with the mystery of the ebbing and rising of ocean tides before Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravitation as a scientific law?

In 1668, Fr. Francisco Ignacio Alcina SJ, wrote that some fellow Jesuit missionaries in the Leyte-Samar area, who were very learned in all categories of science, especially in mathematics and astrology, tried to investigate this phenomenon.

All of them became tired of making various computations and measurements and numerous observations, after spending many days, months and even years in determining what is regular or irregular about them.

None of them found a definite answer that provided a logical pattern for the water movements.

Foolish work

One missionary priest, who was very learned in all kinds of questions, spent many days, lunar phases, months and years noting the data about the limits and boundaries of the water, using certain sticks fixed along the bank, and some farther and others less so into the waters of the sea, which he had placed for this purpose.

At the end of many months, the investigator showed Alcina how much the water had risen and fluctuated through time.

Even though he did not make a wrong conclusion on the matter, he finally told Alcina that "[he] shall be consumed by a foolish work."

However, the investigators agreed that a flood tide and an ebb tide occur every day and were not always simultaneous or had the same force. They said the tide "is greater in the conjunctions and oppositions, that it is like a kind of menstruation (sic)."

Experience

Their experience also showed that sometimes on the day closest to the quarter of the moon, either before or after, the flood tide was customarily greater than on the opposition or conjunction.

On the same days, most of the ebbing did not correspond to the rising tide; sometimes one was greater, and at times the other.

All of them seemed to have missed the full moon as an influence on the high water level.

Alcina said there was no end in the search of a reason for all or even the third part of the tidal phenomenon. These included the moon alone; or the sun accompanied by the moon; or the hollows in the earth in whose depths the tide was believed to extend or retreat; or the fiery conditions that some people dreamed about as in the deep which rarified or condensed it; or even the subterranean fire which they fancied was sufficient for similar ebbing of the tides everywhere.

No one was really sure about the tides when Father Alcina wrote his famous manuscript, "Historias de las islas e indios de Bisayas," in 1668.

Newton and gravitation

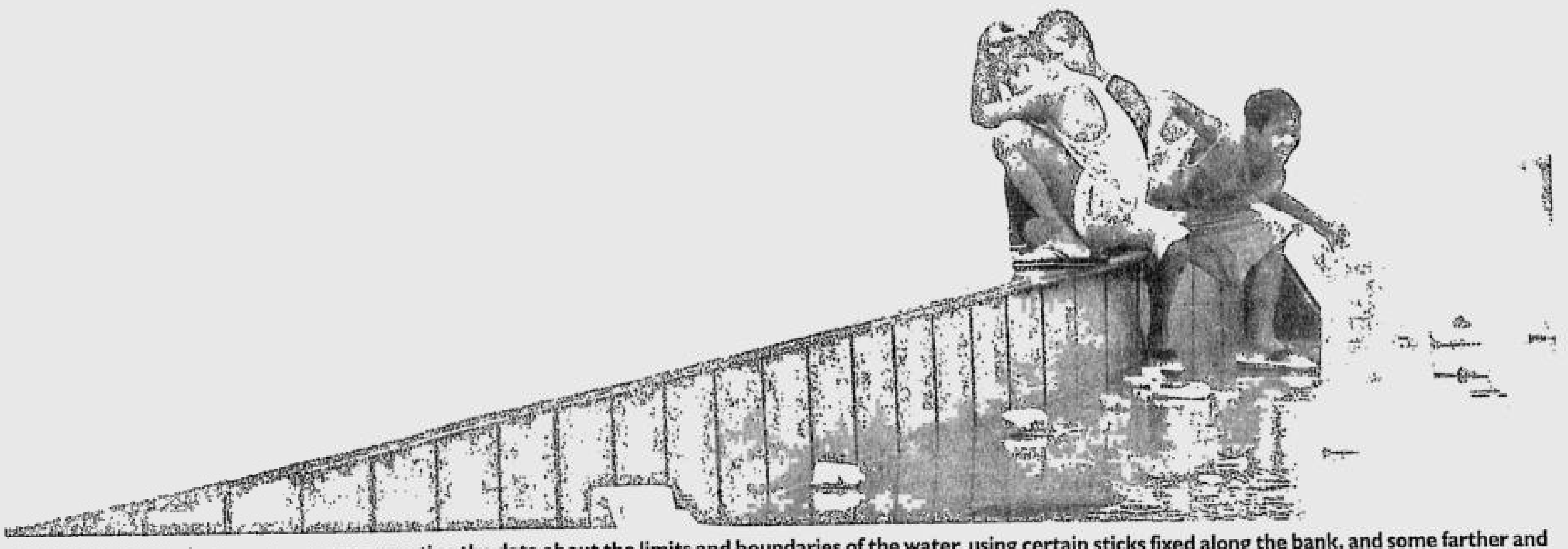
Newton (1642-1727), the English physicist and mathematician, conceived the idea of a universal gravitation in 1666, two years before Alcina wrote his manuscript on this side of the world.

Newton used his idea very successfully to describe the motion of the moon around the earth. But it took him nearly 20 years to publish anything about the bigger problem of the motion of the earth around the sun.

He was prodded to do so by Edmond Halley (1656-1742), a young astronomer who discovered the Halley's Comet and predicted its elliptical 76-year orbit around the sun based on Newton's formula.

Halley financed the publication of Newton's "Principia," a book that was accepted by the Royal Society in 1687 and contained his laws of motion that established the science of mechanics, his discovery of the law of gravitation, and calculus, which has been an essential tool of mathematics and physics ever since.

It has been said that a falling apple might have inspired Newton to conceive his theory of gravitation. But there is little evidence that the apple hit him on the head.



A MISSIONARY priest spent many years noting the data about the limits and boundaries of the water, using certain sticks fixed along the bank, and some farther and others less so into the waters of the sea, which he had placed for this purpose. At the end of many months, the priest showed how much the water had risen and fluctuated through time.

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GMA seen winner, too, in ARMM polls

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao has a new governor in Zhaldy Datu Puti Ampatuan, the favorite from a powerful political clan who was backed in Monday's elections by the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

FEMALE Muslim voters in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, crowd around Board of Election Inspectors to drop their votes and have their fingers marked with indelible ink later at the Marawi Central Elementary Pilot School.

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

An election official said the Commission on Elections was forced to resort to a "legal" *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) to determine the winner of the elections.

The Comelec said it had to resort to *dagdag-bawas* to finish the counting on time.

"Have a heart. This kind of a *dagdag-bawas* is allowed by law," said elections lawyer Romulo Makalintal.

The reason for the move was that election returns from Tawi-Tawi were not brought on time for the regional canvassing, due to long sea travel on bad weather.

So the board agreed to explore numerical presumptions for a "dagdag-bawas" of sorts, this time for the benefit of the losing candidate.

Makalintal rose to convince the tabulating body to add 129,258 votes, Tawi-Tawi's total number of registered voters, to the votes received by the second placer to determine if the sum could "affect the vote margin between the second placer and the one garnering the highest number of votes, minus the actual number votes the highest pointer obtained from that province."

The scene preceded Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos' proclamation of Zaldy Uy Ampatuan of the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats as the ARMM governor-elect during ceremonies at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex here Thursday afternoon.

Minus his actual number of votes in Tawi-Tawi, 44,341, Ampatuan obtained 555,483 votes and was proclaimed winner in the regional gubernatorial race.

Also proclaimed was Ampatuan's running mate, Lanao Sur Assemblyman Ansaruddin Adiong with 514,032 total votes. The same principle of law was applied to votes Adiong and his closest rival, Tawi-Tawi Assemblyman Esmael Abubakar Jr., had garnered.

Abubakar had 149,295 total votes in all four provinces and in Marawi City.

Victory for Ampatuan, Mayor of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, became inevitable even when the board had to add 129,258 to his rival, ARMM Vice Governor Mahid Mutilan's 224,574 votes.

SOLDIERS guard the voting area in Masiu Elementary School in Masiu, Lanao del Norte while voters wait for their relatives by the side of the Masiu municipal building.

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

Only Ampatuan's votes tabulated in the election returns from Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Marawi City were counted.

Canvassing chair Pio Jose Joson said despite this assumption, Ampatuan still maintained a comfortable margin of 204,480 votes in the four provinces and one city, including Lanao del Sur, Mutilan's home province.

Ampatuan became the region's fifth and youngest governor at 37.

But he said his youth was not a hindrance to his goal to provide good governance in the region.

The elections were seen as a test of the government's ability to hold fair elections after allegations of vote-rigging drove Ms Arroyo's presidency to the brink of collapse in July.

The elections, which undermined a nine-year-old peace deal with Muslim rebels, were unusually short of violence but largely failed to break a tradition of fraud, threats and vote-buying.

"Let us unite so that peace will finally reign here," Ampatuan told reporters on Friday.

"I plan to undertake programs to promote education and health, strengthen agriculture and launch more livelihood projects in coordination with the national government."

Beyond the influence of office, candidates were also vying for control of millions of pesos from the national government to finance the region's 101 municipalities and 2,500 villages.

Ms Arroyo congratulated the winners and called for unity.

"Let us put partisanship and conflict behind us and welcome a new dawn of greatness for all Filipinos, regardless of creed, origin or social station," she said in a statement.

Ms Arroyo's perceived support for Ampatuan, a town mayor and son of an influential provincial governor, angered former Muslim rebels from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who had held the governor position since signing a peace deal in 1996.

Critics accused Ms Arroyo of backing Ampatuan to repay debts from last year's presidential elections, in which her rivals failed to win any votes in several areas controlled by his father.

Ms Arroyo is facing an impeachment complaint in Congress over the allegations of election cheating, many of which center on parts of southern Mindanao.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), an offshoot of the MNLF that kept up its fight against the government, said it boycotted Monday's elections because they were "meaningless."

The MILF, which is in peace talks with the government, said it would continue to seek genuine Muslim self-rule in the mostly Roman Catholic country.

Nearly two decades after the government created the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, its five provinces remain among the poorest in the country. *Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Reuters*

ROUNDUP

200 families lose homes

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—More than 200 families lost their homes after a fire engulfed a residential area in Niog 1, Bacoor, Cavite on Friday. Supt. Rodel Sermonia, investigation division chief of the Cavite police, said the fire broke out at about 2 a.m. He said the fire quickly spread and razed about 150 houses before firemen declared it under control at about 5:30 a.m. No one was reported hurt in the fire, Sermonia said. He said they have yet to determine what started the fire. The displaced families were temporarily relocated in a covered court in the area.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fire razes P100M goods

ROXAS, Isabela—A five-hour fire destroyed some P100 million worth of goods early Thursday at the public market in Barangay Rizal here. Police said no one was hurt in the fire that burned 108 stores inside the market. Mayor Benedict Calderon allowed a temporary market site in the poblacion. Arson investigators were looking into faulty electrical wiring as the cause of the fire. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 witnesses gunned down

LOPEZ, Quezon—Two unidentified male assailants gunned down two persons while they were on their way to the regional trial court to testify in a hearing on Thursday, a police report said. The victims were identified as Roberto Ros and Constancio Elloraza, both residents of Barangay Jongo in this town. The report said the two were aboard a tricycle going to the poblacion to attend the court hearing. When the vehicle reached Barangay Calantipayan, the suspects approached the victims and without provocation, fired at them several times. The victims were hit in different parts of the body, killing them on the spot. The suspects fled aboard a blue motorcycle without a license plate. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-editor in libel case

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Police on Tuesday arrested the editor of a defunct weekly based in Baguio City over a libel case. Joaquin Cariño, 46, former editor of the defunct Skyland News, was arrested in his house in Barangay Camp 7 in Baguio but was released after he posted a P15,000 bail. The warrants for the arrest of Cariño and Jun Kindipan Dumar, sportswriter of Skyland, was issued by Judge Marybelle Mariñas of the regional trial court here. Dumar has yet to be arrested. The case stemmed from a story written by Dumar in October last year about a group of Muay Thai athletes who allegedly faked their victory in an international competition in the United States. Bricio Santig, a Muay Thai coach, and athletes Jerson Estoro and Robert Bumina-ang, sued Cariño and Dumar for libel, saying the newspaper had "malicious intent" when it published the story without getting their side. Cariño said they tried but failed to get comments from Santig's group as Skyland went to press. The newspaper, however, carried an interview with the group in its next issue on Nov. 7. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 dead in motorcycle collisions in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Three persons were killed and one was seriously injured in two separate accidents involving motorcycles, a police report said. In Dolores town, Mark Anthony Cervantes, 16, was traveling towards Tiaong town aboard his brand new Honda Wave without plate number when he lost control of the vehicle, causing it to hit a tree at the roadside at about 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. Cervantes was declared dead on arrival at the Liwag Hospital in Tiaong. His back-rider, Joseph Muñoz, suffered serious injuries. He was rushed to the Quezon Memorial Center in Lucena City. The day before, William Ryan Garin and Hernan Cavaria, both residents of Atimonan, were killed when their motorcycle collided head-on with a bus at about 9:40 p.m. after they overtook a passenger jeepney along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Angeles, Atimonan town. The victims were both declared dead on arrival at the Emil Juan Hospital in Atimonan.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fisherman held for looting ship wreck drowns

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A fisherman suspected to be part of a group of looters on the wreck of the USS New York in Subic Bay drowned 30 minutes after he jumped off a boat to escape authorities on Thursday, an official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan said.

Three more suspects have remained missing and the underwater search for them continued at past 5 p.m. Thursday, Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations, said.

Calimlim said Ricardo Macalalag, a fisherman from Subic, Zambales, was found dead at 3:10 a.m. Thursday.

Macalalag, who was arrested by an SBMA team, jumped off a patrol boat while he was being questioned by SBMA policemen, Calimlim said.

He identified Macalalag's missing companions as Jomar Maliwat, Andrew Irabon and Rodelio Antepuesto, all from Subic town.

The SBMA patrol team saw Macalalag, together with another fisherman, Alexander Grateja, at 2:30 a.m. while aboard a motorized banca in the bay's restricted area.

During the arrest, Calimlim said Grateja admitted three companions were still underwater and were taking artifacts from the sunken ship.

Calimlim said the patrol team recovered brass scraps, pipe handles, copper cable and tubes from the suspects' boat.

Grateja was turned over to the SBMA intelligence and investigation office. *Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

1 dead, several injured as inmates riot in Bulacan jail

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF MALOLOS—Gov. Josefina de la Cruz on Friday ordered the relief of the provincial jail warden and nine other jail officials following the death of a detainee during a riot inside the jail on Thursday night.

De la Cruz appointed special investigator Adelio Asuncion to replace Ariel Santiago.

Senior Supt. Benjamin Michael Fokno said detainee Jess Macawili died while undergoing treatment for bullet wounds at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital. Eight others, including jail guard Joselino Cayetano, were treated for wounds at the same hospital.

Fokno said the prisoners had a drinking spree at the court's open yard near their detention cell to celebrate the birthday of one of their mates.

He said a group of prisoners attacked Cayetano and started a riot at 10:30 p.m. When Cayetano shouted for help, Santiago and other jail officers fired warning shots to pacify the detainees.

The riot continued when the lights at the jail compound were turned off.

Fokno said they are investigating if the bullets that hit some victims came from the service firearms of the jail officers.

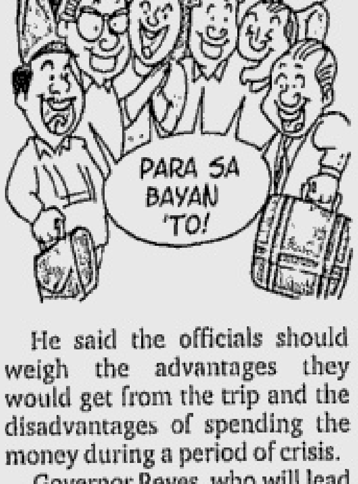
14 Palawan mayors want to visit China

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for austerity, 14 mayors of Palawan have signified their interest to join the delegation of Gov. Joel Reyes and some businessmen in a trip to China starting Sept. 1.

Angel Antic, Palawan Small and Medium Development Council chair, said this visit is untimely for the local government officials because the country is in deep financial crisis. He said there are more things to focus on this time although "there is nothing wrong with going abroad."

Antic said for the businessmen it is acceptable because they are spending their own money and not the people's.

Former municipal auditor Narciso Bondoc, in a radio reaction said the trip could only be used as a junket for local government officials.


PARA SA BAYAN 'TO!

He said the officials should weigh the advantages they would get from the trip and the disadvantages of spending the money during a period of crisis.

Governor Reyes, who will lead the delegation, said the mayors have every right to join the visit because they have their own interest for their municipalities.

He said that the number of mayors who would join the trip still depend on the Department of Interior and Local Government because they still have to seek permission.

He added that the purpose of the visit was for bilateral relations of the province with the provinces of Jelin and Hainan, China.

Some Jelin officials and businessmen already visited Palawan to seek business opportunities.

They initially showed interest in silica mining in Roxas, Palawan.

Reyes said the trip would focus on agricultural and tourism opportunities.

The provincial government, he added, has been preparing for a presentation to the Chinese businessmen on their visit. He admitted that although they have prepared the presentation, it has to be translated into Chinese so communication would be easier.

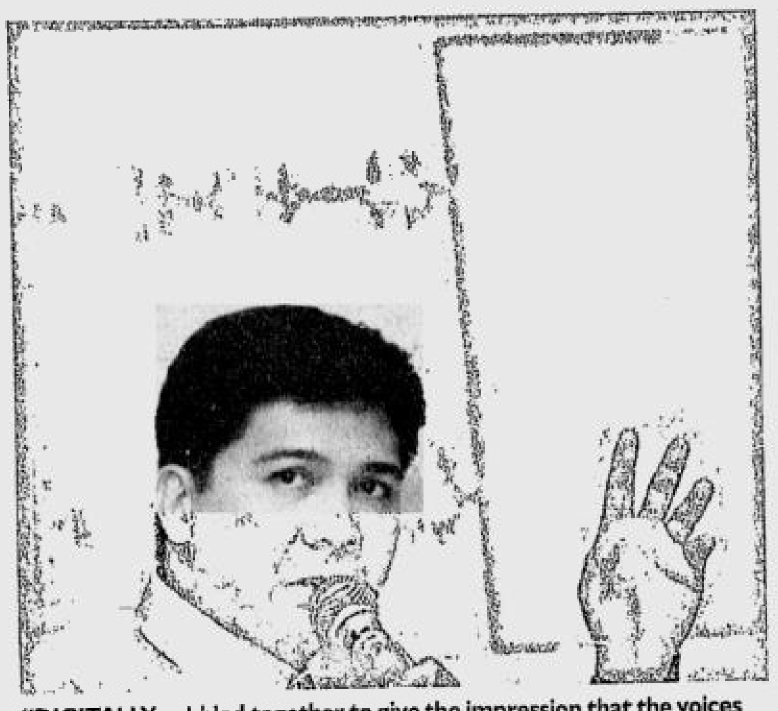
He also told the mayors to translate their presentation in the Chinese language.

Among the mayors who signified their intention to visit China was Rosendo Mantes of Kalayaan, the smallest municipality in Palawan with only about 117 occupants.

The eight-day visit will be shouldered by the Palawan delegation.

Reyes said there are three slots for the provincial government and two for the legislative department that will be shouldered by the party who invited the delegation but the rest will shoulder their own fare and accommodation.

According to reports, each delegate will spend at least P65,000 for the entire trip that includes fare, food and accommodation. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



"DIGITALLY cobbled together to give the impression that the voices were discussing a criminal enterprise," Defensor says of the Garci tape during a news conference at the Sulo Hotel on Friday. JOAN BONDOC

'It's GMA voice . . .

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Paguia tape had been tampered with.

One of the tracks contained the purported conversation in which Ms Arroyo was heard mentioning to a Commission on Elections official—supposedly then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano—the votes allegedly padded in her favor: *"Yung dagdag, yung dagdag."*

The other track contained the portion where the alleged participation of generals in election cheating was mentioned.

Dickey said it was possible that not just one device had been used to produce the two tracks.

Both tracks also allegedly lacked start signatures, or the distinct marks created by the activation of a recording device. He said these marks could be found in original recordings.

For his analysis, Tiongco downloaded an MP3 file from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism website and recorded the contents of the Paguia tape aired over dzMM. Dickey used waveform and spectrographic analysis on the two tracks contained in the recordable CD sent to him.

'For the sake of truth'

Defensor said he intended to submit the Dickey report to the House.

The impeachment complaint rests on wiretapped phone conversations in which Ms Arroyo and other officials are supposedly heard discussing with the Comelec official how the May 2004 presidential vote was being rigged.

The House justice committee is to begin hearings on the case on Monday to determine whether the impeachment complaint is "sufficient in form and substance" and can be sent to the Senate for trial.

But while Defensor appeared certain that the report was conclusive, Dickey nonetheless suggested the need for further verification and even reserved the right to modify his report in the future, upon the submission of the so-called "mother of all tapes."

"The results suggest that the audio is the resultant of several transfers, which involved the audio being recorded/encoded/decoded by different devices. [However] several anomalies ... require further analysis of comparative exemplars created by the original recording," Dickey said.

He also admitted that the unfamiliar language had hindered him from making further evaluations.

Defensor had earlier posed a challenge to opposition lawmakers: He would resign—and would even ask Ms Arroyo to resign—if the portion of the tape supposedly containing *"Yung dagdag, yung dagdag"* is proved to be authentic. And they would resign from the Senate and the House if he manages to prove otherwise.

Asked yesterday by the INQUIRER if Sen. Panfilo Lacson and House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano—who had both immediately accepted the challenge—would have to resign, Defensor said: "It sure looks that way."

Splicing

Defensor said Tiongco had earlier said his analysis of copies of the Paguia tape showed evidence of splicing.

"But I told him that it is not good enough. We needed a [more independent] study," Defensor said.

He said Tiongco looked for forensic sound experts and found out about Dickey and the latter's exhaustive experience.

"I challenge anyone in the room to come up with their own copies of [the recording], and let's see if the findings will be the same or not," said Tiongco, who ran portions of the tracks he had examined.

Tiongco said the word "dagdag" was actually "binalbag" and could have been derived from "Binalbagan," a town in Negros Occidental.

He said the word "binalbag" had been compressed and made to play at a faster speed to produce the sound "dagdag."

He added that a microscopic sonic examination showed the absence of "d" attributes in the resulting sound.

Two other local sound engineers—Arnold Allores and Jimmy Sarthou—corroborated Tiongco's claim of splicing.

Apology

"If we found out these things earlier, I would have told the President not to make that apology," Defensor said.

Asked what Ms Arroyo was apologizing for when the tape was supposedly fake, he said: "She apologized for making the call."

In a televised appearance, the President had apologized to the nation for what she described was an improper phone call to the Comelec official before Congress could proclaim the winner of the 2004 election.

The admission sparked Cabinet resignations and defections from key allies, who all called on her to step down.

FBI out of picture

The findings presented yesterday have now made it impossible for the government to seek the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation in authenticating the "Hello, Garci" tape.

Speaking with reporters in Malacañang, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco quoted the FBI as saying that it was its policy not to give an opinion on something that had been examined by independent experts.

"They (the FBI) don't want their experts to debate with other experts," he said.

Wycoco said it had been the NBI's contention that the "Hello, Garci" tape had been tampered with.

"Tampered, meaning there was splicing, there was editing and there was a voiceover and dates mentioned that were not in chronological order," he said, in reference to the two tapes earlier presented to him by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

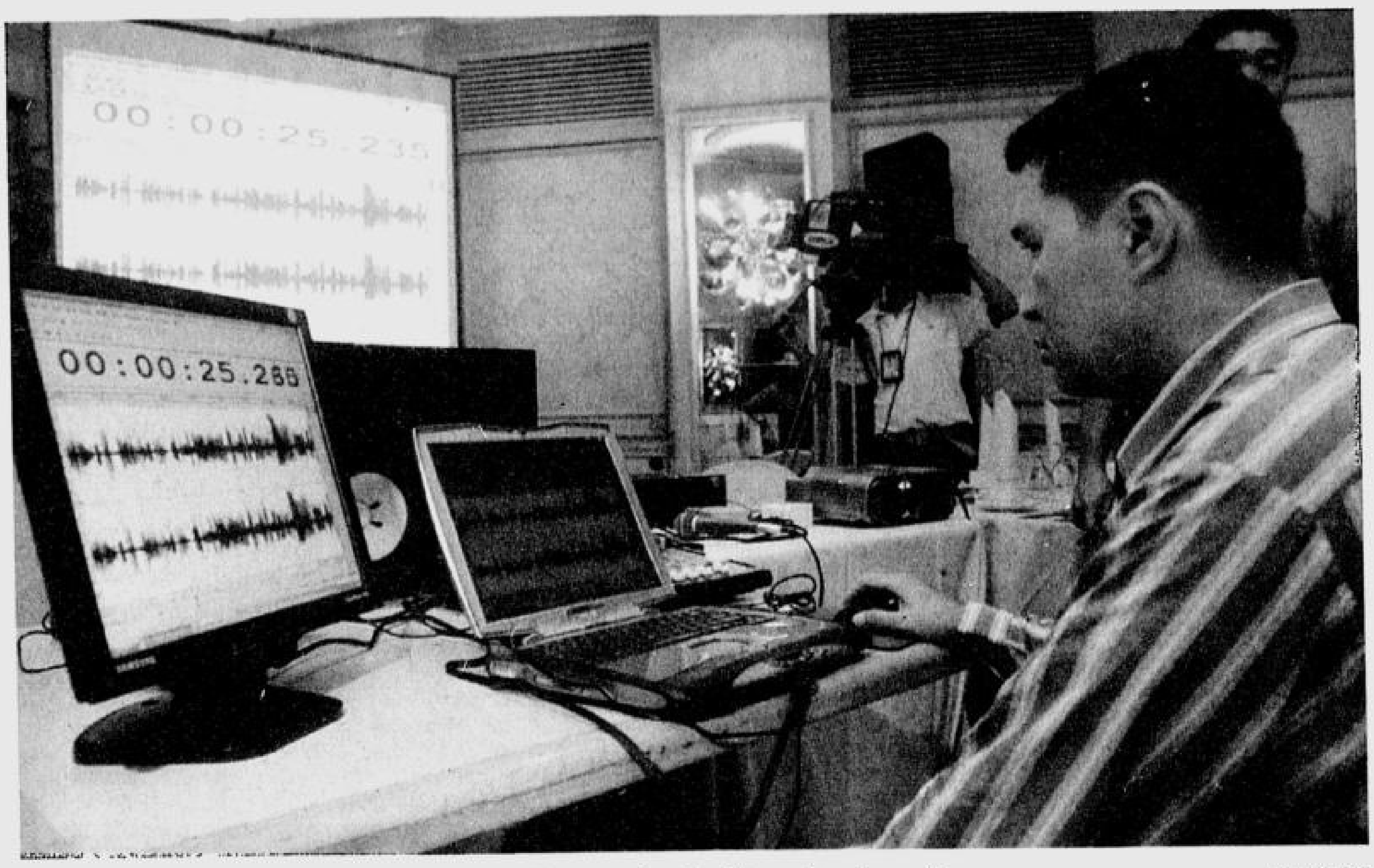
In June, Bunye turned over to the NBI two tapes that were allegedly sent to him and that contained original and spliced conversations showing Ms Arroyo as involved in election fraud.

In Malacañang, Bunye said he expected criticisms to fly the way of Defensor or any other Cabinet member defending the President.

According to Bunye, Defensor has taken many responsibilities, and his efforts to verify the authenticity of the tape was not inconsistent with these responsibilities.

"But what Defensor presented clearly showed that the tape was tampered [with]," Bunye said at a news briefing.

He said the President's legal team could use Defensor's presentation in her impeachment case. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*



THE CHECKERED RECORD of Defensor's alleged audio expert, Jonathan Tiongco is under scrutiny. JOAN BONDOC

NBI warned against believing audio expert

From page A1

believe Tiongco.

He said his reluctance stemmed from the fact that it was also Tiongco who had filed murder, kidnapping and graft charges against Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and anticrime crusader Teresita Ang See, whom Tiongco had accused of staging the kidnapping of Chinese-Filipinos.

Reyes later exposed Tiongco as someone who was facing numerous murder, estafa and extortion charges.

Affidavit

On July 16, Tiongco, who then turned 35, executed an affidavit saying he was willing to share his "expertise and personal knowledge with regard to the tapes proliferating against the President."

When NBI officials rejected his affidavit, he presented it to reporters.

In the sworn statement, he claimed to have been "a professional sound engineer and a master in digital audio processing" since 1992, and to have trained and worked in the United States, Singapore and Japan.

"I worked as digital audio editor and producer for Discotech Remix Service based in Richmond, Virginia, from 1993 to 1996, and in Valentine Music Publishing Singapore from 1997 to 1998," he said.

"In 2000, I was also recruited as intelligence consultant and deep-penetration agent for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, which implements international copyright laws," he said, adding:

"I was also secretly trained in forensic examination of counterfeit audio material and was also assigned on a few high-risk and confidential operations to infiltrate the Big Triad based in Hong Kong and Macau."

Credibility

But instead of raising suspicion about Tiongco's claims, Gonzalez said the man could still be credible, owing to his supposed expertise.

Asked whether he would present Tiongco as a witness in a court of law, Gonzalez said he would first analyze Tiongco's statements because the courts were more stringent on the rules of evidence.

"Since [Defensor] is not a lawyer, his perception of evidence may be different," Gonzalez said.

Willing audience at last

Even the members of the House committees conducting the "Gloriagate" investigation ignored Tiongco's study of the authenticity of lawyer Alan Paguia's recordings.

But "two weeks ago," he found a willing audience for his findings in the person of Defensor.

The environment secretary listened intently but wanted a more credible source of Tiongco's message.

"It's OK if they question my credibility," Tiongco told the INQUIRER. "Besides, there are the other sound experts [who agree that the (Paguia tapes) were less than authentic]."

Dickey's expert report confirming certain anomalies in the Paguia tapes sent by Tiongco and Defensor was actually addressed to Tiongco.

Defensor only shouldered Dickey's fee of $3,500.

Tiongco lamented that after submitting a written report to a number of congressmen, he was not given the chance to show the committees conducting the investigation his findings and how he arrived at these.

Licensed engineer

"When everyone was quarrelling about the tape and I discovered it was anomalous, I found it proper for me to give my comment on it since part of my profession is analyzing sounds and recordings every day," he said.

Tiongco failed to complete a computer engineering course, but managed to attend a sound expert's course in Japan in the 1990s.

He showed the INQUIRER his sound engineer's license, which was issued in Japan.

Told that his credibility might be questioned because of his findings, Tiongco said: "They can question my credibility all they want, but they can't question my hearing and my expertise [in] sounds.

"That's my profession."

Tiongco said he campaigned for the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election.

"I even sold my car to help his campaign," Tiongco said, but failed to elaborate.

'Witness for hire'

Asked about his being charged with murder in Iloilo in the 1990s, Tiongco said: "I was actually the victim. The court ruled in my favor."

He said the media should no longer look into that part of his life because he had already been acquitted.

Told that people were calling him a witness for hire, he said: "Bring them to me. *Suntukan na lang kami* (We'll settle this with our fists)."

Allies, foes dismiss 'Spice' turned . . .

From page A1

garbage out," Lacson said at a press conference.

Lacson also said the examination could not be accepted because Defensor submitted only two tracks of the 3-hour-long tape.

"The integrity of the tape [cannot be determined] if you submitted only tracks 3 and 4. You should submit the entire tape and CD in its entirety to have a forensic examination of whether it is spliced or doctored," he said.

He said he would submit to Dickey a copy of the tape he had sent to Dr. Brian Lovell of the UPL to get at the truth, and again challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign if the Paguia tapes were proven authentic.

"If we submit similar tapes, both to Uniquest and Barry Dickey, they should have the same finding," Lacson said, adding:

"I challenge him (Defensor), if Mr. Dickey would come up with the same findings as Uniquest, can he ask the President to resign or step down?

"If the tape we sent to Australia would be found to have been spliced, edited or doctored, I am willing to go personally to Ms Arroyo and apologize to her. I'm even willing to talk to [San Juan] Rep. [Ronaldo] Zamora, the lead prosecutor, to talk to his colleagues in the House to withdraw the impeachment complaint."

'Muddling' the issue

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Defensor's presentation was a poor attempt at muddling allegations of electoral fraud that were bolstered by the President's admission in late June that it was her voice on the tape.

"It is obvious that they are trying to confuse the meaning of the words that are uttered in the tape to reach out not only to the congressmen or women but also to the people at large," Pimentel said at a press briefing.

He added: "[Defensor's] announcement falls in line exactly with the lies the administration is peddling to cover up for the misdeeds of the President."

He also said Defensor and Jonathan Tiongco were making fools of the Filipino people: "All this talk about [the word] 'dagdag'—obviously, they are trying to stretch the tape even further to the irrational conclusion."

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House inquiry into the tapes, said the chairs of the five committees conducting the investigation would meet on Monday and pursue the authentication of the tapes by a neutral and credible foreign government agency.

Remulla also said he considered Defensor's report to be biased.

'Parroting' terms

Alan Paguia himself said he was prepared to admit that he was mistaken if a foreign government agency proved that the tapes were fake.

"I am not an expert and neither is that guy (Defensor). He should just leave it to the sound scientists and not pretend that he is one," the lawyer said.

Paguia said Defensor's "parroting" of technical terms from the report did not give credence to its findings.

He observed that when asked whether it was the President's voice on tape, Defensor gave an ambiguous answer.

"That is not the way to deal with the truth," Paguia said. "The bad thing is the environment secretary is acting like a lawyer, when he is not, and is also trying to be a sound scientist, which he is not."

'Splice Boy'

Congressman Zamora agreed that Defensor should focus on his work as environment secretary.

"From Spice Boy to Splice Boy," Zamora said of Defensor, who was once one of a group of young congressmen who called themselves the "Spice Boys."

"We should just stop this business of making these foreign experts richer," Zamora said.

He noted that when the opposition came out with its own experts proving that its version of the tapes was authentic, the administration cast doubts on their findings.

"Remember, they were saying the same thing about us," he said. "They are now doing what they criticized then. We paid our experts; they paid their experts. It's the same thing."

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said Defensor's report was "dubious and incredible" and could be part of an administration cover-up.

Noting that the shortest distance between two points was a straight line, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said at a press conference: "Their shortcut is to never get there. In short, they want us to get lost. Truth is simple, so they added a merry-go-round to this circus."

Cayetano, spokesperson of the impeachment team, said Remulla had denied giving Defensor a copy of the Paguia tapes.

Thus, Dickey's findings would "naturally suit the client's agenda," Cayetano said, adding:

"It depends on what tapes were submitted. But why only now? And why is Secretary Defensor solo flight on this issue?"

2 months

Lacson wondered why Defensor or Malacañang waited two months before seeking an examination of the tapes.

"There's every reason to be skeptical. It took them more than two months. And there's a lot they could have done on the tape before they submitted it to Dickey," he said.

Pimentel said that contrary to the Palace's expectations, the presentation had only worsened Ms Arroyo's woes.

"No matter what they do, they are in effect making the situation more difficult for the President. Because no matter what they say, the President has already admitted that her voice was on the tape," he said.

Vindication

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Dickey's findings had vindicated the administration's stance that the Paguia tapes should be "thrown out as evidence" in the impeachment proceedings against the President.

"The findings show the tape was tampered to implicate the President by splicing her voice conversations," Nograles said. He recalled that it had always been the administration's position that the recordings were "technologically spliced, tampered with, and doctored to suit the objective of those who seek to bring down the Arroyo government."

"The presentation of Secretary Mike Defensor seeks to illustrate how illegally obtained evidence can be made to appear destructive using available technology," he said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac*

Little things mean a lot in saving energy

From page A1

rescent] in our working areas. I hope that this happens in all offices of the government and the private sector," she said.

She also suggested the use of power capacitors to lower electricity bills.

Alternative fuel

For motorists and transport firms, Ms Arroyo encouraged the public to try alternative fuel, such as bio-diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG).

She said adding bio-diesel to gasoline would boost fuel mileage by 10 percent. She reported that more CNG filling stations would be established soon to make it accessible to public transportation firms.

"We have to do these so that we can be partially independent from the steep rise in crude prices," she said.

Ms Arroyo also said on radio later that she intended to order the Commission on Higher Education to encourage all schools to promote car-pooling among their students.

Last year, Ms Arroyo ordered government offices to turn off their air conditioners during lunch breaks and turn off the lights to slash electricity bills while encouraging car pooling and reduction in security convoys to bring down fuel expenses.

On its part, the energy department has prepared different sets of conservation measures for different diesel price thresholds.

Three scenarios have been used as basis for the measures, including the current situation scenario with diesel retailing for an average of P29.76 a liter; Scenario 1 with diesel at P40 a liter; and Scenario 2, with diesel at P50 a liter.

Lower air-condition level

Among measures falling under the DOE's recommendation for accelerated implementation are the setting of temperature levels of mall air-conditioning at 25 degrees, using neon signs only from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., reducing mall hours by an hour a day, banning night golf and conducting an energy audit of commercial and industrial establishments.

Reducing mall hours by an hour a day, for example, will already cut the country's fuel requirements by 49,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent a year, resulting in corresponding savings of P147 million.

All 10 measures under those recommended for accelerated implementation can reduce the country's fuel consumption by 1.34 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent a year and generate savings of close to P4.1 billion, officials said.

Apart from those measures recommended for accelerated implementation, the government is also looking at several other measures under the current diesel price scenario.

These include shifting factory operations to off-peak hours, not dispatching the National Power Corp.'s bunker-fired plants in Luzon, advocating vehicle reduction schemes outside Metro Manila, encouraging "carless" days and carpooling as well as suspending the procurement of government vehicles.

While most of these measures will be voluntary in nature, some will be mandatory.

According to the DOE's computations, implementing all the voluntary and mandatory measures under the current price scenario will result in a fuel consumption reduction of 25.05 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent a year and savings of P75.14 billion.

When diesel prices hit P40 a liter, measures under Scenario 1 will be implemented. Under this situation, all location-specific energy conservation measures under the current scenario will be expanded to nationwide coverage.

FX taxis

Additional measures under this stage of the government's energy conservation program include the provision of a carpooling express lane, supporting the use of FX taxis as an alternative to limited-occupancy cabs, encouraging the use of liquefied petroleum gas and other alternative fuels as transport fuels, suspending the 10 a.m.-3 p.m. "open window" provision in the color-coding scheme, and implementing a nine-day work cycle for government agencies and public schools.

Savings under Scenario 1 are estimated at 35.91 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent and P107.83 billion.

When diesel prices spike to as much as P50 a liter, Scenario 2 will come into play, meaning implementing all of the current scenario and Scenario 1 measures on a nationwide level.

4-day school week

In addition, government agencies and public schools will have to follow a four-day work cycle, an odd-even license plate fueling restriction system will take effect, the color-coding scheme restrictions will be extended from just one day to two days, and power generation agencies will be required to use alternative and cheaper fuels.

Projected savings under Scenario 2 are placed at 42.23 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent and P126.78 billion.

All these measures, however, are still recommendatory in nature and will require consultations with other government agencies and the private sector.

Fewer jobs

With world market prices surging, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas warned of fewer available jobs for Filipinos in the future.

"It's getting more expensive to generate jobs so there may be less job opportunities," Sto. Tomas told reporters yesterday. "Businessmen have to deal not only with the high wage bill in the country but also the increase in energy cost in their operations."

Despite the dire picture she gave, Sto. Tomas said she was optimistic that the government would achieve its target of generating one million jobs every year.

She said these jobs would not only come from the information technology and telecommunication sectors but also from the mining, agriculture and community-based enterprises.

The government will also increase support for the cooperative, self-employment and microbusiness projects intended to benefit poor people who avail themselves of the return-to-the-province program, she said.

World oil prices surged past $66 a barrel in New York Friday owing to huge speculative buying, sky-high global demand and outages at overwhelmed refineries, analysts said.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) singled out low spare production capacity in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) as a major factor behind the soaring prices. *With a report from AFP*

Oil firms raise prices by 50 cents

By Abigail L. Ho

AS EXPECTED, Eastern Petroleum Corp., Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Total Philippines Corp. are jacking up the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

Eastern, Unioil and Total implemented their price hikes at 6 a.m. today, while Seaoil would be hiking prices some time within the day.

Since the start of the year, gasoline and diesel prices have both increased 15 times by a total of P7.85 and P7.55 a liter, respectively.

Fernando Martinez, Eastern Petroleum chair, said the price hike was already "widely anticipated" as oil firms had yet to completely reflect international price fluctuations in local retail prices.

This pump price increase, he said, would "partly recover the unprecedented increase in world market prices as of Aug. 5."

Other oil firms, including refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., have yet to make their own announcements as of press time.

Petron, however, earlier said that it would likely increase its prices by 50 centavos a liter over the weekend, depending on the movement of world prices.

Dubai crude

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude has spiked to an Aug. 1-11 average of $55.29 a barrel, more than $2 higher than the July average of $52.83 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also surged to an average of $69.57 a barrel in the first 11 days of August from only $64.70 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel, however, dropped to an August average of $70.09 a barrel from the July average of $71.38 a barrel.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P32.54 and P33.42 a liter, diesel at between P29.29 and P30.98 a liter and kerosene at between P30.50 and P32.01 a liter.

Scourge of the century: 185M Asian men …

From page A1

ing to the WHO.

Around 130 million men aged 40 and above were currently having problems with erection, Viagra manufacturer Pfizer said in a statement.

Songco said they had no data on the actual number of Filipino men suffering from erectile dysfunction. Health experts said there could be more impotent males than were actually reported because they preferred to remain in hiding.

'e-card' for Viagra

To encourage these men to come out, Pfizer launched an "e-card" that would enable them to purchase Viagra at a leading drugstore by simply presenting the card. They need not say a word.

Male impotence has become a growing problem because of diabetes and hypertension, and even smoking and substance abuse, according to Songco.

"It's really connected with lifestyle," he explained. "Diabetes is on the loose and hypertension is on the rise."

These diseases stiffen the arteries, preventing the rush of blood to the penis which is needed to have an erection.

About 50 percent of men who have diabetes and 30 percent of males with high blood pressure suffer from erectile dysfunction, Pfizer said in a statement.

'Basic solution'

The basic solution to the impotence problem is a drastic change in the male lifestyle, according to Songco.

Men would have to give up smoking, watch their weight and cholesterol level and limit their alcohol intake—the risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. Instead, they would have to observe proper diet and regular exercise.

The immensely popular Viagra could also provide answers to those already suffering from erectile dysfunction, Pfizer said.

In the press conference, Dr. Marcelo Imasa, dean of the College of Pharmacy of Adamson University, said the drug had treated more than 23 million impotent men. It was also approved by regulatory bodies in 119 countries, he said.

Fake versions

But because Viagra remains relatively expensive at P560 per 50-mg tablet, counterfeit versions abound.

"It is one of the most copied medicines in the world and has become widely available through various channels to consumers," Pfizer said, noting that as many as 117,000 websites peddle a so-called "herbal" Viagra.

"A number of herbal medicines and other natural alternatives have been advertised as sexual enhancers that work the way Viagra does but the truth is, none of them have shown to work in real scientific studies," Pfizer added.

Pfizer's woes with fake Viagra reflect a global problem. According to the WHO, between 6 and 10 percent of all medicines in the world market, are reportedly counterfeit, equivalent to sales of more than $36 billion a year.

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MRT 3 cuts tickets, not fares

By Abigail L. Ho and Clarissa S. Batino

THE NEXT time you take the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) on Edsa, don't be surprised to get only half a ticket. It will be enough to get you from one point to another. Just don't insert them into the automated fare collection machines.

A critical shortage of tickets has prompted MRT 3 management to cut into two most of the old tickets to reuse as manual passes for train rides, MRT 3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso said.

Lastimoso said the railway agency had been using old, cut up tickets for those traveling a P14-route.

Holders of these tickets pass through manual gates instead of the electronic gates. So far, the MRT 3 has cut 50,000 tickets.

"We are using the very old tickets that are no longer accepted by the machine. We cut them in half and issue them to those buying P14 tickets because this is where the bulk is," said the MRT 3 chief in an interview.

Lastimoso said 40 percent of MRT 3's ridership buy the P14-ticket. Almost all the tickets being cut and used as manual pass are GMA tickets. MRT 3 has about half-a-million of the passes.

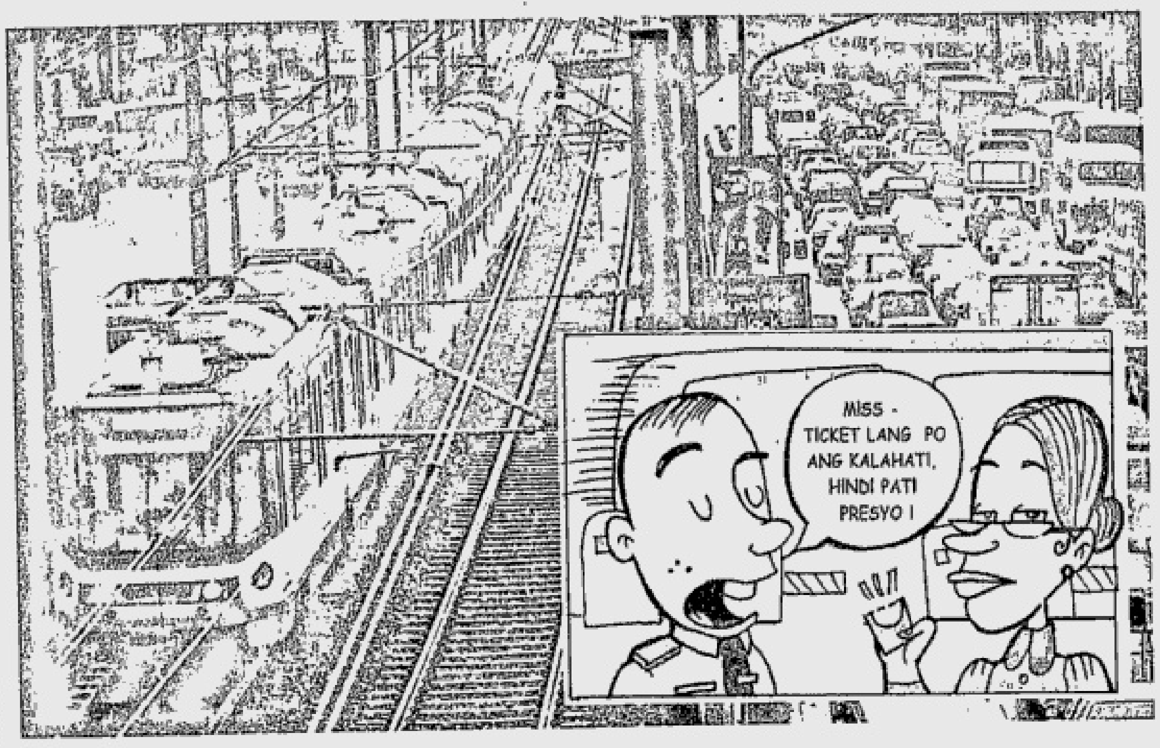
Commuters will have to present the tickets to the guard at their point of origin and drop them in dropboxes at their destination.

"We cannot avoid that there are those who may want to cheat. But it's just P1 so we just ask them to pay the difference," he explained. MRT charges a fare ranging from P9 to P15.

Last month, the MRT 3 started using tickets bearing the face of ousted President Estrada but pulled out the electronic cards after the agency reportedly got into trouble with Malacañang.

The pullout of 400,000 Estrada electronic cards in mid-July immediately led to a shortage of tickets. Lastimoso said the agency needed 800,000 tickets a day so it won't have to retrieve from the machines.

But lately, only 245,000 tickets are usable. "So we retrieve our tickets four times a day. Even that is not enough so we resorted to cutting the old ones."


MISS - TICKET LANG PO ANG KALAHATI, HINDI PATI PRESYO !

MRT 3, which carries about 420,000 passengers each day, is hard-pressed for funds, according to Lastimoso, which was why it has a hard time financing even the production of the electronic cards.

The agency seeks a P20-million budget for a one-year supply of tickets but often, the budget gets channeled to items like salaries and other costs of operations.

"We will soon get the delivery of the first batch of the 800,000 tickets we ordered. Maybe, we can get half of that by the second week of September," he said.

Winning bidder Digicom will print 800,000 cards for P10 million.

Two UP students charged

By DJ Yap

TWO UNIVERSITY of the Philippines students have been charged with frustrated murder for their alleged participation in the beating of an engineering student in fraternity related violence.

Genise Wyrlo Junio, a statistics student, and Jesus Malcolm Madriaga, a law student, were accused of involvement in the July 29 mauling of Domingo Vela II, 19, who was pummeled with lead pipes and slashed using a utility knife by three hooded men.

In a complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation before the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Vela said he was in a meeting with fellow members of UP Catandungan near the National Engineering Center when he noticed a red Toyota Corolla nearby.

He saw three hooded men wielding lead pipes and knives alight from the vehicle and approach him, he said. But he recognized Junio, whose face was uncovered, inside the car.

Vela said he tried to run away but was caught by the attackers.

After the attack, the assailants sped off in the car, with Junio at the wheel,,he said.

He said the car, with plate numbers 16 LA 87, belonged to Madriaga, but he could not say if Madriaga had been in the car when the attack occurred. Later, investigators traced the car to one Teresa Madriaga.

Vela said his attackers were members of Alpha Phi Beta fraternity. They might have mistaken him for a member of rival Sigma Rho fraternity, since he had a friend who was a member, he added.

Legislator loses P1M to burglars

A CONGRESSWOMAN lost $17,000 (P1 million) and other valuables to burglars who broke into her home in Quezon City.

Sometime between Aug. 10 and 11, robbers broke into the home of Rep. Faysah Maniri-Dumarpa, First District Lanao Del Sur, at 11 Defoe St., Filinvest, Batasan Hills, police said.

They carted away a security vault containing money and assorted jewelry, police said.

Pieces of jewelry from the room of Dumarpa's 22-year-old daughter Faydah, a law student at San Beda College, were also reportedly taken.

Police said the burglars came in through the main door between 11 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m. Thursday, when the break-in was discovered.

Aside from the family, four helpers and two drivers also stay in the house, police said.

Isniehayah, 25, Dumarpa's eldest daughter, said the thieves seemed to know where to look. She said her family kept dollars in the house for quick access, especially when they go on trips abroad.

Dumarpa is the wife of Salic Biston Dumarpa, commissioner of the National Labor and Reconciliation Commission in Cagayan de Oro City. *DJ Yap*

Rain + Lack of discipline = Road mishaps

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DISCIPLINE is the key—especially during rainy days.

Traffic officials are reminding motorists to follow traffic rules, especially now that roads are slippery, to avoid accidents.

"Roads are very slippery (when it rains). Drivers should avoid speeding, especially when approaching u-turn slots," Eastern Metro Traffic head Eduardo Mejia said.

Many accidents happen near U-turn slots opened by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to decongest roads in the metropolis.

The reason: drivers usually speed up instead of slowing down when approaching U-turn slots, trying to beat other drivers in making the turn, Mejia said.

U-turn slots

He said many accidents in eastern Metro Manila happen near U-turn slots on C5 Road.

From January to July, about 8,000 accidents were reported in the three cities and one municipality in Eastern Metro Manila (Marikina City, Pasig City, Mandaluyong City and San Juan).

Because of these accidents, at least 38 persons were reported killed. More than 1,200 persons were also injured, figures from the Eastern Metro Traffic showed.

Most of these incidents were because of "human error," a traffic investigator added.

Another traffic official also blamed the accidents on "undisciplined drivers who disregard traffic rules."

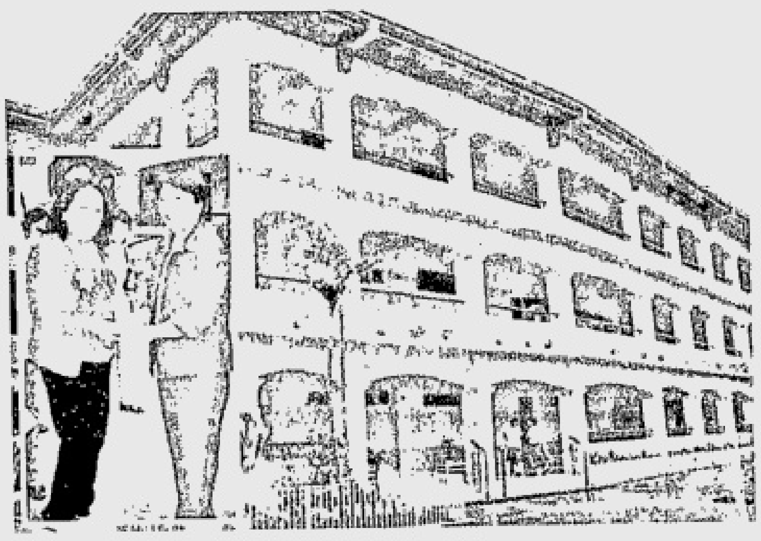
The official admitted that many drivers in Metro Manila disregard traffic rules, knowing they could get away with violations because either nobody is watching or they could bribe enforcers.

"The situation is very different in other countries, when drivers observe traffic rules strictly," the law enforcer added.

METROBRIEFS

Police official sacked for not paying bills

THE CHIEF of the Pasay police relieved yesterday a precinct director for allegedly refusing to pay his bill in a Malate restaurant. Police chief, Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, removed Chief Insp. Rizalino Padrique as head of Police Community Precinct 3, after receiving news that the latter was arrested by Manila policemen at dawn yesterday. Padrique was apprehended on the complaint of the management of Cowboy Grill, which alleged that the lawman refused to pay for P4,307.57 worth of food and drinks that he and some relatives had throughout the night. Franco later said Padrique was willing to pay but had a "misunderstanding" with the pub management, which he said, blew the incident out of proportion. *Tarra V. Quismundo*



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar (left, inset) congratulates Almanza Elementary school prinicipal Hermilina Lezarda during the blessing and turnover of the newly constructed additional 3-storey 17-classroom Mediterrenean-inspired school building.

Man killed, cemented inside steel oil barrel

By Nancy C. Carvajal

"HE SHED tears of blood."

That was how a police investigator described the unidentified man found wrapped in cement inside a steel barrel, which was dumped in a fishpond owned by a city councilor in Malabon City, yesterday morning.

"The drum reeked of bad odor," said Insp. Jorge Tabayag of the Malabon police. He said the barrel was found at about 9:30 a.m. by a caretaker of the fishpond owned by Councilor Oliver Ramos on Kagitingan Ext., Muzon St.

Tabayag said the victim was naked except for his underwear and a small towel placed on top a barbed wire tied around his neck. His hands and ankles were also tied with rubber strips.

He added that the victim had a stab wound in the throat, two in his chest and a gash on his neck.

The victim was in fetal position when he was found inside the more or less 100cm tall barrel. Police described the man to be between 40 and 45 years old and had a tattoo on his right arm with the name "Alex."

PO3 Benedicto Zafra said he found dried tears of blood on the victim's eyes and cheeks when they finally extracted him from the steel and cement after three hours, using a jackhammer.

If you live in a glass house...

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE BIBLICAL injunction that says that if you live in a glass house don't throw rocks at your neighbor is now being applied on Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay by supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A group calling itself the Campaign for Public Accountability (CPA) is digging up the plunder case filed against Mayor Binay et. al. with the Ombudsman.

The plunder case against Mayor Binay; his wife Elenita, former Makati mayor herself; and six other officials was filed based on two audit reports by the Commission on Audit (COA).

Binay is at the forefront of the opposition call for Ms Arroyo's resignation. He has led protest rallies against the President in Ayala, the country's business center.

The first audit report concerns the alleged ghost deliveries, gross overpricing and falsification of documents in the "anomalous purchase" of hospital equipment and supplies for the Ospital ng Makati.

The first audit report, submitted on April 20, 2002, allegedly involved P430.2 million.

The second COA report, made on Sept. 22, 2002, concerns alleged rigged bidding, falsification of public documents and gross overpricing amounting to P231.5 million.

The P661.7-million plunder case—based on the two official COA reports—against the Binay couple and six other Makati officials has been pending with the Office of the Ombudsman since Aug. 20, 2003.

Since Aug. 20, 2003, the plunder case has not moved at the Office of the Ombudsman. Some Ombudsman officials have delayed its filing with the Sandiganbayan.

Plunder is a heinous crime punishable by death.

The revival of the plunder case will mean sleepless nights for the Binay couple and their six co-respondents.

In the Philippines, politics is give-and-take. If you do a fellow official a favor, he's expected to return the favor. If you accuse a fellow official of committing an irregularity, the same official or his supporters will dig up your skeletons in the closet.

If you live in a glass house, don't throw rocks at your neighbors because the rocks that they will throw back at you will shatter your house.

* * *

This writer was shown a COA report on the minutes of the exit conference held at the COA Bldg. No. 1, COA Compound, Quezon City, on Feb. 27, 2002.

Present at the conference were Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, Makati Treasurer Luz R. Yamane, among other city officials; COA-Makati auditors; and members of a COA special task force.

For the lack of space, excerpts from the minutes of that conference will be run in my next column.

Bombing hearings reopened

WE'RE not done just yet.

State prosecutors pursuing the case against men tagged in the deadly Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City yesterday succeeded in reopening the already concluded trial of the case, when the court allowed them to refute the lone defense testimony through another round of hearings.

Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60 Judge Marissa Guillen granted the prosecution's motion to reopen the trial against the accused, confessed Abu Sayyaf members Angelo Trinidad and Gamal Baharan, and Indonesian terror suspect Rohmat Abdurrohim.

"In view of the new matters raised...the court shall grant said motion to reopen hearing," said Guillen in her order released yesterday afternoon. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

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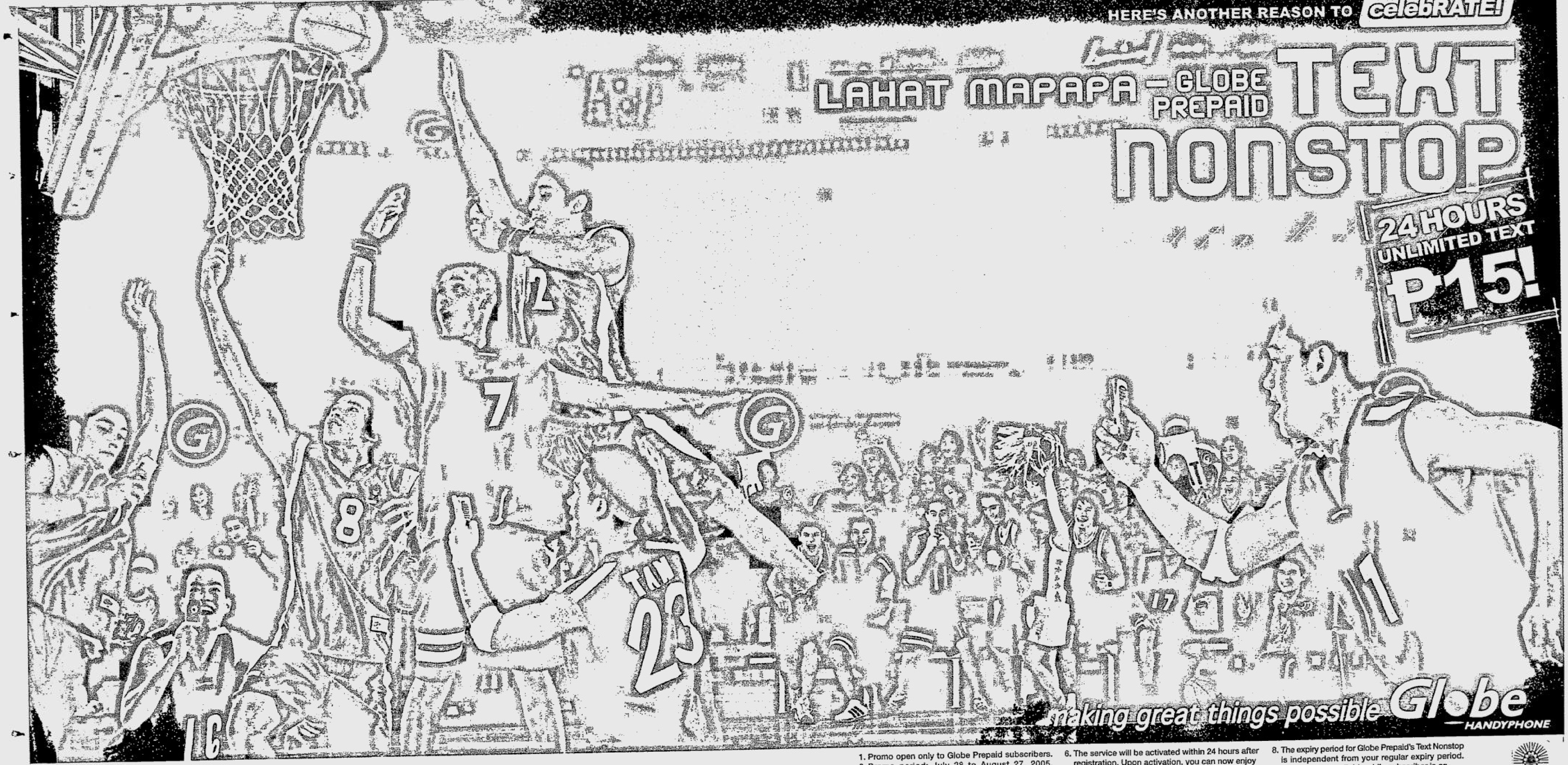

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SPORTS

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: US PG Championship, Day Two; 9:30 p.m. (r); Day Three; tomorrow at 2:30 a.m.; ESPN—See if Tiger can contend for his third major of the year.
BASEBALL: MLB–Rangers vs Yankees; 7 a.m. (r-1 p.m.); ESPN—New York tries to mess with Texas.
TENNIS: Rogers Masters; 9 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); STAR Sports—Check out the quarterfinal round
BASKETBALL: Australia vs China; 4:30 p.m.; STAR Sports-The Boomers host Yao Ming and company in Perth.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Mexican out to shame Pacquiao

RP's Viloria vies for WBC 108-lb title in undercard

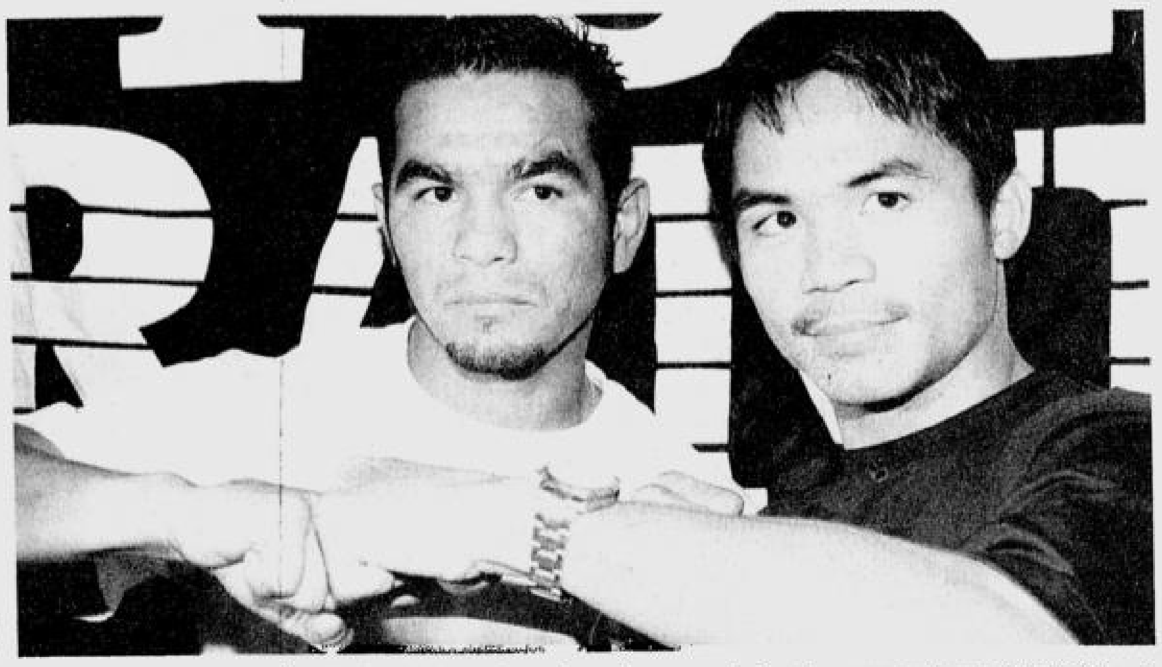
By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MEXICO'S Hector Velazquez went into attack early yesterday and vowed to shame Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao on Sept. 10 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles in the co-feature of the sensational "Double Trouble" card.

At yesterday's press conference held at the Max's of Manila Restaurant in Glendale, California, that also featured Filipino Brian Viloria, Velazquez announced to American and Filipino media men that "everything will change on Sept. 10... and fans should go watch out for a great fight."

Velazquez did not say how he plans to humiliate Pacquiao, although records show the hard-hitting Mexican has won all his last five fights—four by knockout.

Present at yesterday's press conference were Pacquiao, Bob Arum of Top Rank Promotions, boxer Vanes Martirosyan, Pacquiao's new manager Shelly Finkel, and the Sydney Olympian Viloria, who will vie for the WBC 108-lb crown in the undercard.



MEXICO'S Hector Velazquez (left) and Manny Pacquiao strike a pose during the news conference Thursday. AP

Taking the podium following loud cheers from fans, Pacquiao then went on to thank those who have been behind him.

"I am honored to fight here in Los Angeles... the people have been wonderful to me," the Filipino boxing hero told the crowd.

Meanwhile, the undefeated Viloria, who challenges the hard-hitting Eric Ortiz of Mexico in the undercard, announced to the crowd that he is "one hundred percent Filipino" after promoter Bob Arum introduced him as being "part Filipino."

"First of all, I want to clear things up," said Viloria. "I'm not part Filipino, I'm [full] Filipino."

Although born in Hawaii, Viloria said it was "not by choice." He indicated he would have relished being raised in the Philippines, just as his parents were.

"I'm going to wear the Philippine flag on my trunks, and I hope that you will embrace me as one of your own," Viloria told the Filipino fans.

The crowd then broke into a loud chant, "Brian, Brian, Brian!"

Mexican boxing great Erik Morales, who beat Pacquiao in a bloody 12-round encounter in Las Vegas last March, fights ex-Olympian Zaheer Raheem in the companion main feature of the Staples Center card.

Morales and Pacquiao are being propped up for a rematch early next year.

GMA says RP must unite for win-win SEA Games

ARROYO: Sports is one of things everyone can do together.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on all Filipinos to "come forward and help carry the torch of cooperation and the banner of One Team Philippines" in the Southeast Asian Games which RP will host in November.

The Chief Executive made the announcement after meeting in Malacañang with Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco who briefed her on the progress of the country's preparations for the regional biennial meet.

"Each of us must beam with pride that we are being held together by our birthrights as Filipinos. We can only fulfill our destiny together—one vision, one mission, one Filipino connecting to another," the President told Cojuangco.

The President said the government is committed to make the staging of the 23rd edition of the meet among Asean member-countries a big success regardless of the troublesome political atmosphere.

"Sports is one of the things everyone can do together; a universal undertaking that can translate into peace, unity and understanding. We Filipinos must forge our identity on these objectives from every point of view and from every different opinion," the President said.

President Arroyo explained that in the end, sports must serve as a fountain of inspiration for the youths who will inherit the mantle of leadership from their elders.

Thirty-one venues have been selected to stage the 42 disciplines approved by the Southeast Asian Games Federation Council which is reportedly requiring more than P1 billion in expenditures that

GMA/ A22

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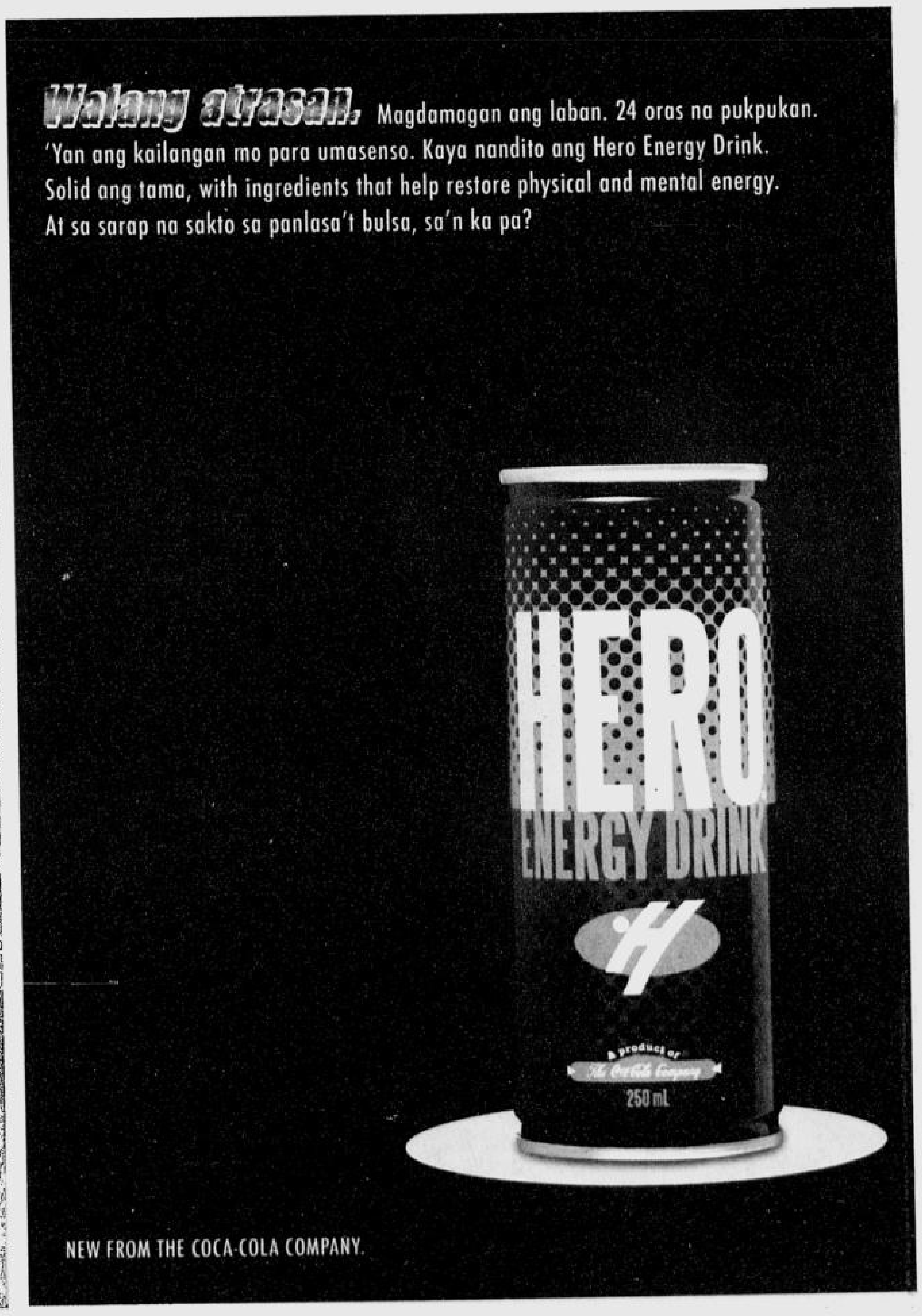

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Hurting Sharapova kee

CARSON, California—Maria Sharapova kept her bid for the world number one ranking alive on Thursday, rallying for a three-set victory despite a painful pectoral muscle.

Sharapova, the top seed in the $585,000 JP Morgan Chase Open, defeated fellow Russian Anna Chakvetadze 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, but said she was hampered on her serve and forehand.

"I'm not playing 100 percent physically," she said. "I'm serving 92 miles per hour, and I'm not hitting my forehand. With that, it's tough to play a girl, who has nothing to lose, is swinging out there and seems to be playing

Sharapova said she had b mation of her right pectoral hurt it playing at Zurich las MRI on Wednesday.

"There's nothing torn, t keeps coming back," she sa muscle and hurts on the m The more you play and the more painful it is."

In the quarter-finals on F is scheduled to play Slovakia

Nadal, on co

NADA

MONTREAL — French Open champion Rafael Nadal and American Andre Agassi remained on course for a possible final showdown as they booked quarter-final berths at the $2.45 million ATP Masters Series here Thursday.

Nadal, the top seed who is seeking his third straight title, emerged with a 6-4, 6-4 France's Sebastien Grosjean, a year-old Spaniard had to f break points to hold his serve the match.

"The fact that I didn't have to rest after last night didn't thing," said Nadal, who had b jean in four sets en route to Roland Garros.

Agassi, the fourth seed and champion here, cruised pa Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal, who improved his s to 61-7 this season, is seeking tle of the year but first on a s than clay.

In March, he lost in the hardcourt ATP Masters Series ami to top-ranked Roger Fede ner here last year but not ente son.

After bowing out in the seco Wimbledon, Nadal won

Gatlin's sparks

HELSINKI—Justin Gatlin's ex plosive performance in add the 200 meters world title t 100m one led a dominant ni the United States at the worl letics championships Thursda

The 23-year-old 100m cha on led a one-to-four finish fo Americans in the 200m; Tyso the unfortunate one of them out on a medal.

Gatlin was joined on the tr the podium by compatriots Perry in the 100m hurdles an Davis, who went from failing fy for the 2003 triple jump champion this time round.

The Americans also saw al of their men's 110m hurdles finalists reach Friday's final evergreen four-time cham Allen Johnson just one race from becoming the first eve athlete to win five titles in th event.

However, for one America ended in tears of despair as O hurdles champion Joanna H hopes of claiming the world when she clattered into the barrier and finished last.

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4 D' ANOTHERS

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2 CREEP
3 (DOLBY) YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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2 STEALTH
3 IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS

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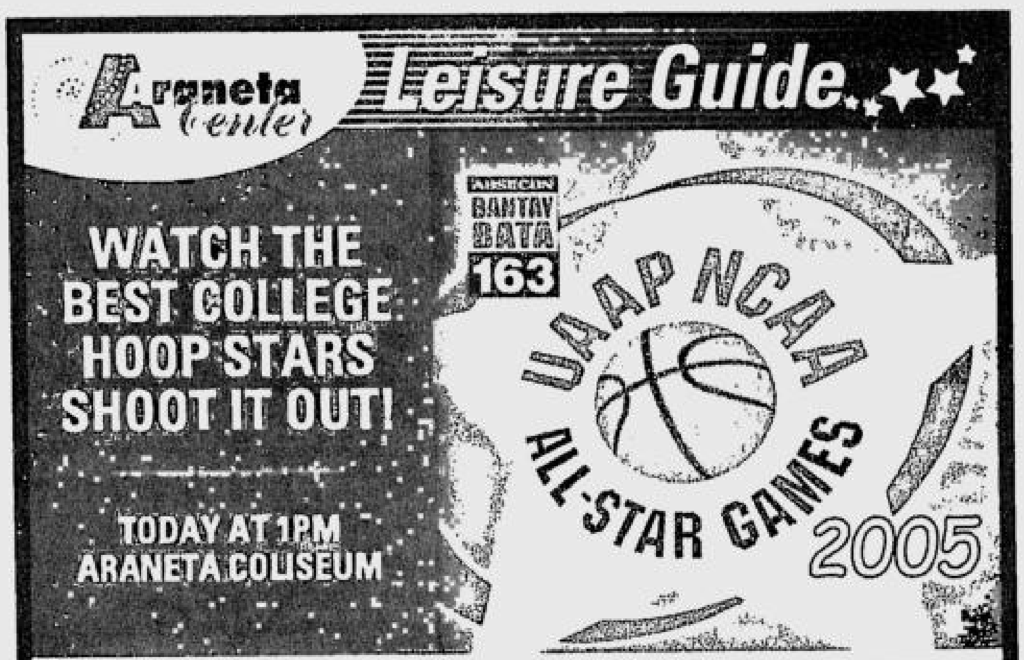
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CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
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CRASH
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
STEALTH
2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
BEWITCHED 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
D' ANOTHERS
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
IF ONLY
1:05 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
WEDDING CRASHERS
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE ISLAND
1:30 / 4:10 / 6.50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ D' ANOTHERS 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
❷ THE GREAT RAID 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
❸ BEWITCHED 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❹ LAMAT 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❺ STEALTH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
Aug 14 Sunday UP vs UST Jrs 9:30am FEU vs UE Jrs 11:30am; UP vs UST Srs 2pm FEU vs UE Srs 4pm
Aug 21 Sunday NU vs UP Jrs 9:30am FEU vs DLSU Jrs 11:30am; NU vs UP Srs 2pm FEU vs DLSU Srs 4pm
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riday, Sharapova
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chova, who defeated Ukrainian Kateryna Bondarenko 6-4, 6-4.

Sharapova can leapfrog injured American Lindsay Davenport for the top ranking in women's tennis this week.

In other third-round action, third-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva got past Marion Bartoli of France, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Fourth-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia defeated Klara Koukolova of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4, setting up a quarter-final clash against Kim Clijsters of Belgium. *AFP*

SHARAPOVA'S bandage on her pectoral muscle shows. REUTERS

Agassi stay
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REUTERS

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events at Bastad and Stuttgart before taking a two-week break prior to this event. He struggled against friend and Davis Cup teammate Carlos Moya in the first round, then routed fellow left-hander Ricardo Mello of Brazil on Wednesday.

Nadal next will face eighth-seeded Mariano Puerta of Argentina, who beat Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-2, 6-4.

Agassi needed just 86 minutes to dispatch Kiefer.

Agassi, 35, is coming off his 60th career victory in Los Angeles two weeks ago. It was his first event since returning from a painful back injury.

Agassi next meets sixth-seeded Argentinian Gaston Gaudio who beat Spain's Tommy Robredo 6-3, 7-6 (7/0).

In other third-round matches, Canadian-born Briton Greg Rusedski reached the quarter-finals of this event for the first time in his career.

Rusedski beat Croatian Mario Ancic 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. In the quarters he'll face Slovakian Dominik Hrbaty, a 6-4, 6-2 winner of Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Slovakian Karol Beck surprised fifth-seeded Russian Nikolay Davydenko 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4) to line up a clash with France's Paul-Henri Mathieu.

Mathieu, 23, cruised into the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Olivier Rochus of Belgium. *AFP*

sprint double
US dominance

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It wasn't all America's night as 37-year-old German discus thrower Franka Dietzsch reclaimed the title she won in 1999 and the Netherlands Rens Blom stunned more highly-rated rivals by winning the pole vault.

For Gatlin, though, it was further confirmation that right now there is nobody to touch him as he assumes the mantle of compatriot Maurice Greene in being the dominant force in sprinting.

Indeed he is just one title away from emulating Greene in winning three world titles at the same championships.

He is in the 4x100m relay and aside from dropping the

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CINEMA 4 THE GREAT RAID PG13 11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
CINEMA 5 BEWITCHED GP 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

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MTRCB GP
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② BEWITCHED
MTRCB. GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

③ WEDDING CRASHERS
MTRCB PG-13
1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00 LMF

④ THE GREAT RAID
MTRCB. PG-13
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE BEWITCHED
MTRCB GP 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 LMF
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2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:30, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:00 GP
3 BEWITCHED 12:50, 3:20, 5:50 8:20, 10:50 GP
4 WEDDING CRASHERS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10 7:50, 10:30 PG-13

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2 BEWITCHED 11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

manila
1 STEALTH 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/7:20 09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END

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1 STEALTH 11:30FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 THE ISLAND 11:30FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:30LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 THE GREAT RAID 10:50FS/11:10MF/02:00/01:45/04:20/06:55 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END

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8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE ISLAND
10 KITCHIE NADAL CONCERT
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 CINEMANILA

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3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 STEALTH
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 BEWITCHED
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE ISLAND
10 THE EYE INFINITY
11 IF ONLY
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 D' ANOTHERS
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY
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6 ICE PRINCESS
STEALTH
8 THE GREAT RAID

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THE GREAT RAID
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 BEWITCHED
4 STEALTH
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6 THE EYE INFINITY
THE ISLAND
8 CRASH
9 WEDDING CRASHERS
10 YEAR OF THE YAO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 STEALTH
4 BEWITCHED
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 CRASH
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 ARAHAN
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY MANILA
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2 THE ISLAND
YEAR OF THE YAO
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
STEALTH
ARAHAN
8 IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
10 CRASH
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY BICUTAN
THE GREAT RAID
D' ANOTHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
THE GREAT RAID
4 BEWITCHED

SM SAN LAZARO
THE GREAT RAID
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
CRASH
ARAHAN
5 BEWITCHED
6 D' ANOTHERS

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
ARAHAN
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
ARAHAN
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
THE GREAT RAID
4 BEWITCHED
STEALTH
6 D' ANOTHERS
WEDDING CRASHERS
THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY MARILAO
IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 EVIL DEAD
4 ARAHAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
4 EVIL DEAD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
6 THE EYE INFINITY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY ILOILO
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4 D' ANOTHERS
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6 STEALTH
7 RESERVED
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

SM CITY DAVAO
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D' ANOTHERS
4 THE MACHINIST
CRASH
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3 D' ANOTHERS
4 COACH CARTER

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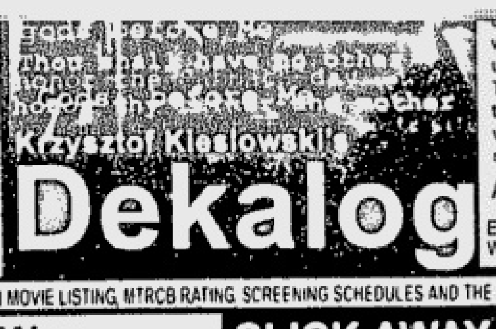

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Guidicelli rules karting sr class

KARTER of the Year Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group swept three heats and ruled the Rotax Max Seniors class recently in the fifth leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Ekart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The win enabled Guidicelli to regain the Rotax Max Seniors solo leadership from Birel driver Marlon Stockinger.

With the track similar to the Kart Zone in his hometown Cebu, Guidicelli raced as if he knew every corner, finishing the 28-lap race in 17:07.735, 2.142 seconds ahead of Stockinger.

Guidicelli's CRG teammate, Ivan Carapiet, took third place with a time of 17:21.090 while Mark Bumgarner ended fourth.

Dino Jacinto and Marcel Thenu also shone.

Jacinto clocked 18:08.972 to rule the 14-man Rotax Max Novice division over Toti Turalba and Arvin Gonzales. Jean Marcelo of Marcelo Racing came from the tail end to finished fourth, towing Christian Yap.

Thenu, on the other hand, kept his record unblemished as he scored his fifth straight victory over Ricardo Loi and Victor Yap.

The event was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Honda Phils. Inc., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Khaos, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance.

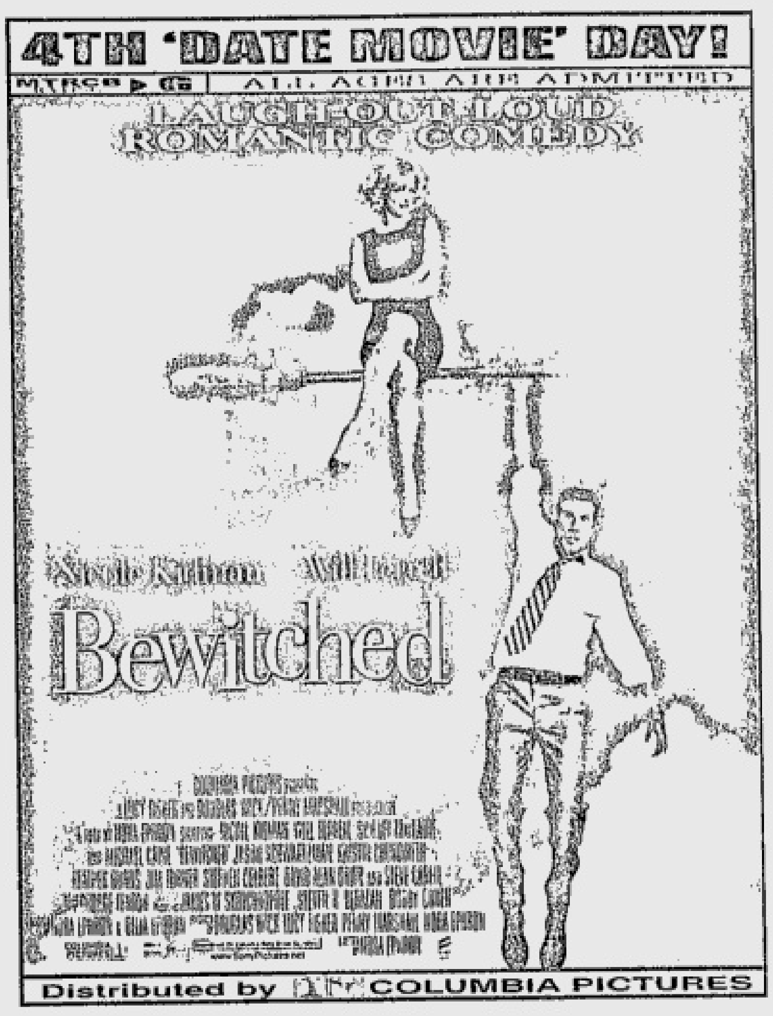
Coseteng tries to widen gap over touring rivals

DEFENDING champion Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer aims to fortify his grip of solo leadership when the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship stages its fourth leg this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Coseteng, now with 87 points, is seeking another sweep to bolster his hopes for a fourth straight crown in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

But the expected heavy rain could affect the race scenario especially with the emergence of A3 Motorsports-Malayan Automaster National Touring Team skipper Philip Alvendia as title contender.

In the last leg, Alvendia came back from fourth place to finish just 0.547 seconds behind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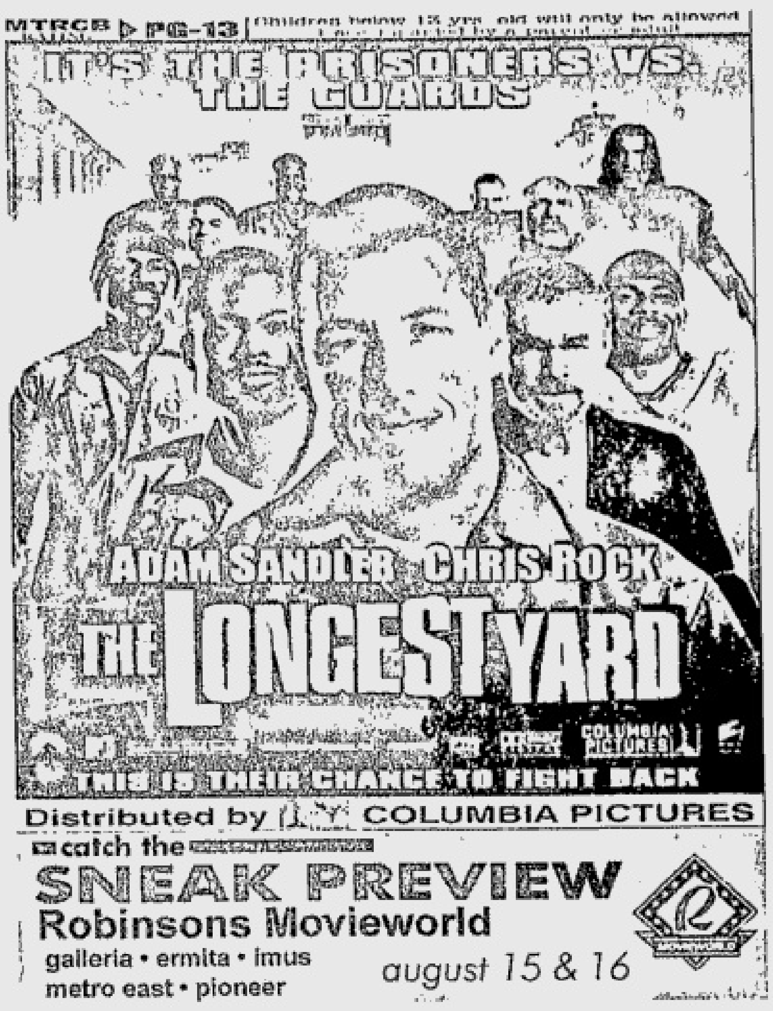
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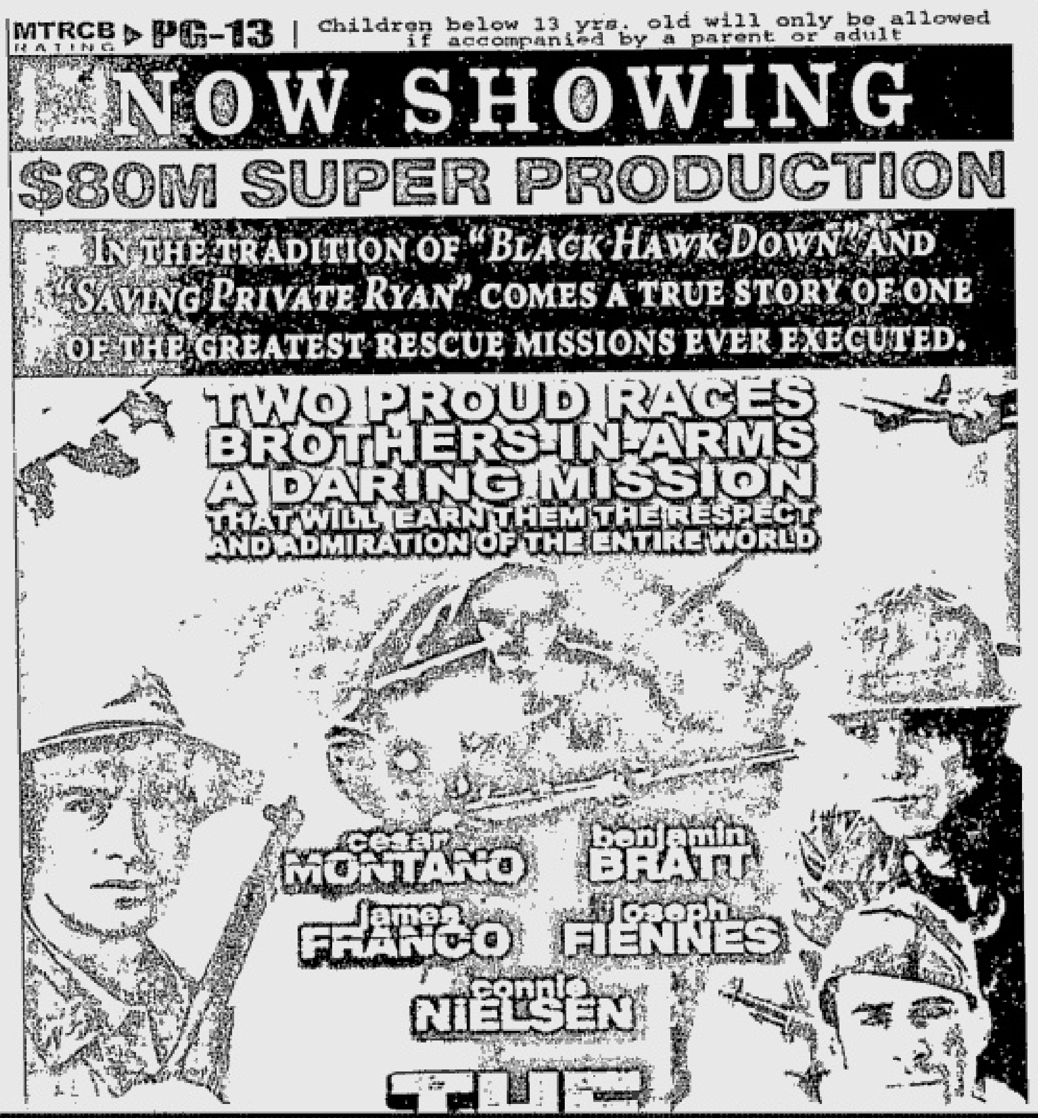
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OPENS AUGUST 17!
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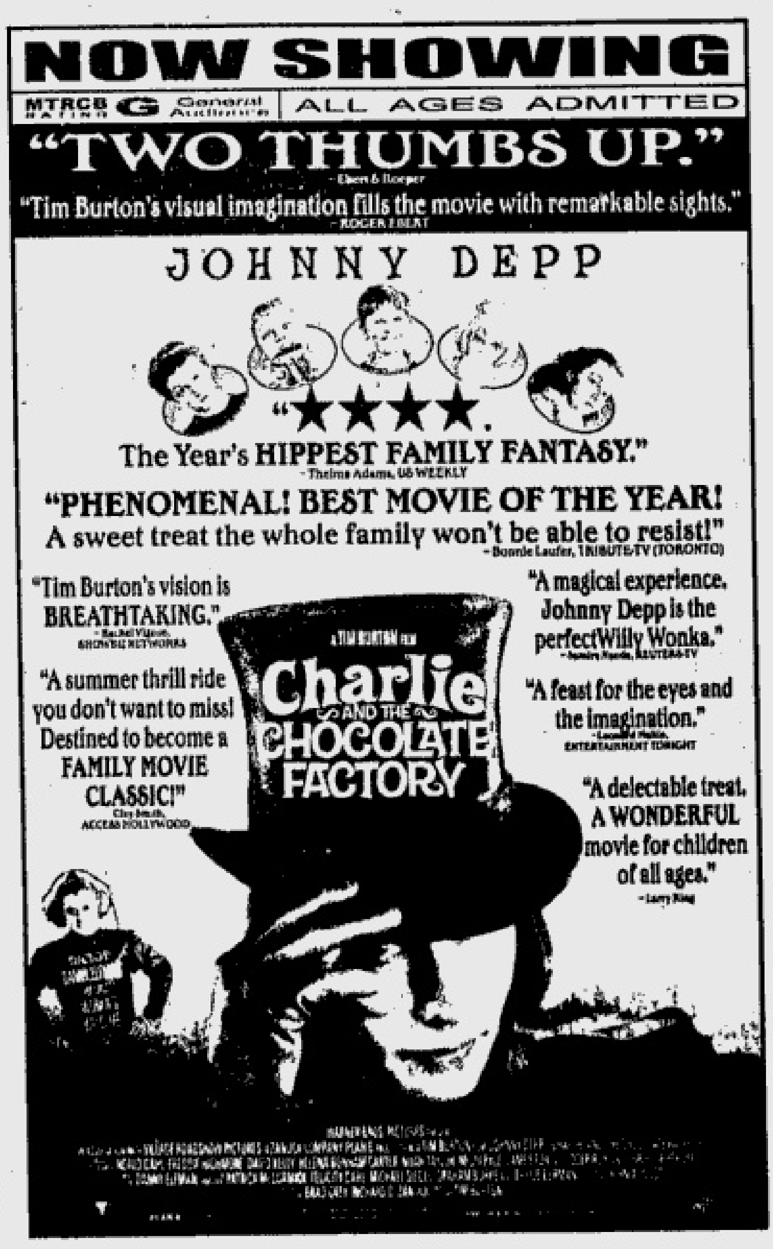
Diane Lane
John Cusack
Must Love Dogs
The hardest trick is making them stay.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ALL AGES ADMITTED
"TWO THUMBS UP."
- Ebert & Roeper
"Tim Burton's visual imagination fills the movie with remarkable sights."
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JOHNNY DEPP
"★★★★. The Year's HIPPEST FAMILY FANTASY."
- Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY
"PHENOMENAL! BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR! A sweet treat the whole family won't be able to resist!"
- Bonnie Laufer, TRIBUTE-TV (TORONTO)
"Tim Burton's vision is BREATHTAKING."
"A magical experience. Johnny Depp is the perfect Willy Wonka."
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- Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
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Movie in Amer
after 3 week
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CRASH

KEON: Organizer and 5K entry

Laoag Milo Marathon elims tomorrow

LAST year's winners Reynaldo Pascua and Vilma Butac set out as the prohibitive favorites when the 29th National Milo Marathon Northern Luzon leg kicks off tomorrow in Laoag City.

Fresh off its big qualifying leg in Metro Manila, the marathon resumes its search for the country's top long-distance runners with 6,000 entries expected to answer the starting gun in front of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Capitol building.

Aside from Pascua, the men to watch in the 21-K race are Randy Basillo, Rabin Dalog and eight-time winner Rodolfo Tacadino.

Laoag City organizers are still waiting for other runners from Tuguegarao, including Tacadino, also last year's runner-up, to register for Sunday's race.

Last year, Pascua needed a late burst of speed in the final 500 meters to beat Tacadino by 11 seconds and claim his first regional crown in five years.

The 41-year-old Tacadino has vowed to avenge that defeat tomorrow in the foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Without a strong challenger on the roster, local bet Butac is expected to dominate the distaff race anew.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21-K races qualify to the 42-K National Finals slated Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

The Laoag City leg is organized by the Ilocos Norte sports office headed by Michael M. Keon, the former Project: Gintong Alay chief and currently the province's sports consultant. He will also run in the 5-K event.

A member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Keon is the training director of the Philippine Sports Commission for the upcoming Southeast Asian Games.

Also featured on Sunday are the 5-K fun run, where the bulk of the race entries is competing, and the Kiddies age-group 3-K event.

Prizes will be awarded to the best cheering team, the biggest number of delegation and the winner of the inter-school running competition.

Invited to grace the opening and awarding rites is Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

BEST OF THE BEST

Gold for Rivero, RP jins

OLYMPIANS Marie Antoinette Rivero and Tshomlee Go and fellow national team mainstay Esther Marie Singson struck gold as expected late Thursday in the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Rivero came out virtually unscathed in a 7-0 demolition of Richelle Dinolan of Far Eastern University for the light-welterweight gold, while Go of the Air Force whipped FEU's Rommel Roa, 4-1, to bag the men's flyweight gold.

Singson, representing University of Santo Tomas, kicked her way to a 6-1 victory over Madonna Boholano of Butuan TKD for the bantamweight gold as the RP jins underscored their might in the fourth annual edition of the tournament.

In a duel of RP team standouts, Loraine Catalan of University of the Philippines outfoxed University of the East's Lilac Mangondili, 3-0, to bag the flyweight gold.

Elaine Alora of Laguna beat RP teammate Rani Ann Ortega of UP by the same score for the featherweight gold.

Providing the fireworks in the action-packed day was Gerrielyn Arranzanso, who nipped La Salle and RP teammate Eunice Alora in sudden-death to snatch the finweight gold medal.

Zaida Canoy of Socsargen whipped Maurice Dulay of Region 1, 7-4, to rule the middle-heavyweight division, while John Paul Lizardo bagged the men's finweight gold when Mark Anthony Carmona of UE withdrew due a knee injury after holding the RP team stalwart to a 3-3 tie.

Alex Briones of PAF won the welter gold over UE's injury-stricken Alden Aranda.

Other winners were Manuel Rivero Jr., Jacob Barroga, Carlo Manalo of Delta and Dax Morfe. Rivero, also an RP team mainstay, beat Mark Aldrin Rico of Baguio, 12-4, to win the bantam gold; Barroga claimed the featherweight gold with a 2-0 victory over fellow FEU bet Jan Joseph Hernandez; Manalo edged Rafael Bondoc of Iligan in sudden-death to snatch the lightweight gold, and Morfe outduelled Michael Alejandrino of La Salle, 7-6, for the middle-heavyweight gold.

DOMINGO Rico Jr. (right) connects with a kick against Marvin Jacob Bautista in their match yesterday. Rico won, 4-0. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

RP clouters open bid vs Singapore in Aspac tilt

GAMES TODAY
8 a.m.—RP vs Singapore
10 a.m.—Japan vs Australia
12 noon—Japan vs Singapore
2 p.m.—RP vs Australia

DOUBLE-HEADERS will be played today after yesterday's opening matches in the fifth Pan Pacific Junior Baseball Championship were rained out at the Sto. Niño Baseball grounds in Marikina City.

Matches pitting Team Philippines against Singapore and fancied Japan versus Australia, originally scheduled yesterday, will be played at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., respectively, today.

After the morning matches, the Japanese will take on the Singaporeans while the Filipinos battle the taller Australians in the afternoon session of the four-day event sponsored by Pagcor and the City of Marikina.

Marikina City Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando and Philippine Tot Baseball Federation president Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr. ushered in the event backed by Yellow Cab Pizza, Colgate-Palmolive, Asia Brewery Absolute, Max's Restaurant, Jollibee, Golden Vine Lab and Tropical Hut.

Tournament director Toshiki Tominaga attended the opening rites.

Fernando, who also played host to the 2005 Asia Pacific Bronco Baseball Championship last month, spoke of Marikina's resurgence as a new sports destination in the country and also in Asia.

"We feel that we've found a home in this beautiful city," said Tingzon, who met with representatives of all four participating squads before deciding to postpone games due to unplayable layout.

The top two teams after the single-round elimination automatically qualify to the South Asia Championship in October in Singapore. They play each other in a one-game affair with the winner gaining points for a chance to advance to the World Series next year in Tokyo, Japan.

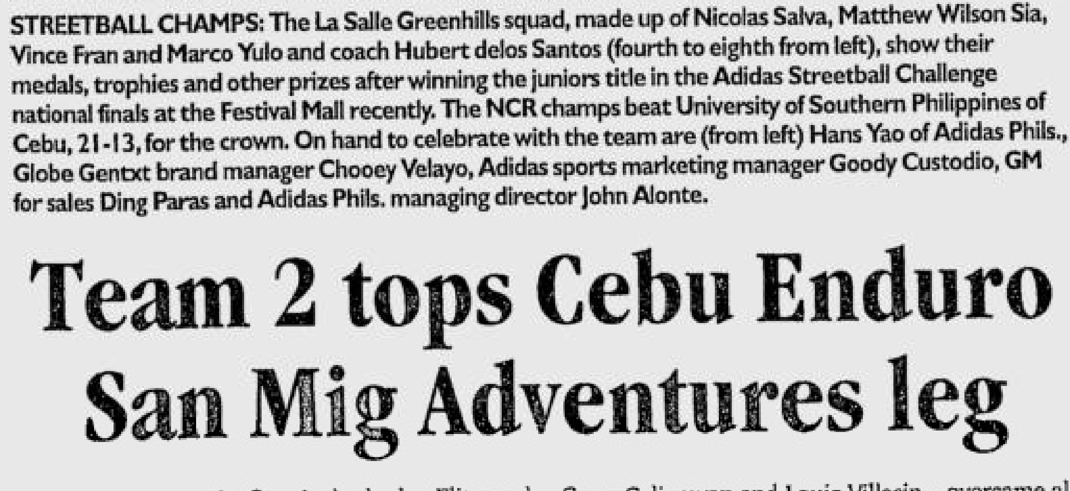
Bantay Bata All-Star caging under way

THE BEST of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines and their counterparts from the National Collegiate Athletic Association tangle today in the 2005 Bantay Bata 163 All-Star Game at the Araneta Coliseum.

Robert Flores' UAAP first team takes on Junel Baculi and the NCAA first squad at 3 p.m. while the Franz Pumaren-mentored UAAP 2 tackles the Louie Alas-coached NCAA 2 at 5 p.m. in the event that hopes to generate funds for the children of Bantay Bata 163.

Also to be featured are the three-point shoot-out and the slam dunk competition starting at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at Ticketnet outlets and at the Big Dome.



STREETBALL CHAMPS: The La Salle Greenhills squad, made up of Nicolas Salva, Matthew Wilson Sia, Vince Fran and Marco Yulo and coach Hubert delos Santos (fourth to eighth from left), show their medals, trophies and other prizes after winning the juniors title in the Adidas Streetball Challenge national finals at the Festival Mall recently. The NCR champs beat University of Southern Philippines of Cebu, 21-13, for the crown. On hand to celebrate with the team are (from left) Hans Yao of Adidas Phils., Globe Gentxt brand manager Chooey Velayo, Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio, GM for sales Ding Paras and Adidas Phils. managing director John Alonte.

SPORTSWATCH

Bibat defends Singapore Am title

MICHAEL Bibat opens defense of his Singapore Open Amateur crown on Aug. 16 at the Bukit Course of the Singapore Island Country Club, hoping to duplicate his stirring victory last year. Bibat bested a crack field to win last year's title at Sentosa Golf Club, beating New Zealand's Mark Purser by three strokes despite a closing 78 for a four-round total of 290. The 21-year-old mainstay of the RP team is confident of making it back-to-back in the event, but he will have his hands against a stellar field that includes top Filipino shotmaker Juvic Pagunsan.

English Premier League on ESPN

ESPN STAR Sports, Asia's number one sports broadcaster, officially kicks off the 2005-06 FA English Premier League (EPL) season today. The EPL remains the pinnacle of English club football as 20 of the finest teams take part in the most exciting and demanding football league in the world. ESPN and STAR Sports will broadcast six live matches a week and a total of 201 games this season. More than 1,000 hours of coverage will be devoted for the EPL by the two sports channels.

Bates 7-Stag Derby starts Aug. 29

THE WINNING Time Jobo Sports and Amusement Corp. presents the annual "R. L. Bates 7-Stag Derby" on Aug. 29 and 31 at the Makati Coliseum with popular breeder Richard Bates as host. Entry fee is P16,500 and guaranteed prize is P700,000. Screening and wingbanding of stags, 8-10 months old, is ongoing and those interested may call 0916-3156991 (Bates), 046-4140750 or 723-8412 (Ms Verna Bates). Meanwhile, the newly organized Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines is set to stage nine 5-stag derbies, beginning Sept. 5 at the Makati Coliseum.

Coronel stagfest moved to Roligon

EDGAR Coronel, a respected gamefowl breeder of Pasig, announced yesterday that this year's edition of "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby" will be staged at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27. Entry fee is P8,800 and guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. Coronel is credited for staging the 375- entry Palaban 6-Stag Derby last year. For inquiries, call Roligon at 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812 or 0920-7199623.

Team 2 tops Cebu Enduro San Mig Adventures leg

TEAM Two came in first in both the Elite and Novice categories to rule the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2005 last Saturday in rainy Cebu.

Team Two from the Elite Category, composed of Nogie Biagan, Mylene Jarina and Rodulfo Verdida clocked six hours and 26 minutes to beat Danao Sports and Orientwind Hayahay Dumaguete.

"The terrain was really difficult," said Biagan, whose team took home the top prize of P25,000 plus premium prizes from San Mig Light. "*Tapos, medyo umuulan pa (We really had a hard time in the rain).*"

Team Danao Sports, led by national team member Marites Bitbit, along with Erick Feliciano and Roland Pasaol, came in nine minutes behind Team Two and bagged the P15,000 second prize, while Orientwind Hayahay Dumaguete, composed of Eunel Matula, Christopher Eygo and Jasmin Lasota, logged in 6 hours and 38 minutes for the third plum.

"*Medyo madulas nga ang daan at mahirap*. It was hard to bike, we had to grope. But I'm glad we were able to finish second," said Feliciano of Danao Sports.

Another Team Two—composed of Neil Reyes, Gerry Calinawan and Louie Villasin—overcame all challenges in the hazardous terrain of Cebu City to clinch the Novice title in 2:05 hours.

The troika of Reyes, Calinawan and Villasin went home P10,000 richer, while Team Dakoykoy 2005—composed of Ramir Batumalake, Leilani Batumalake and Alvin Opountisima—who finished second with 2 hours and 19 minutes, took home P5,000.

Completing the winners in the Novice category was Team Dumaguete Outdoors-Cuernos, with members Jaclyn Parreno, Ian Yee and John Paul Sola, which came in a minute behind Team Dakoykoy 2005.

The three-leg series was sponsored by San Mig Light. Other sponsors were Bombproof Gear, Rudy Project, Casio, Planet Infinity, North Face, EZ Maps and Detour Bikeshop.

Backing the annual race were Nike, Pump Magazine and Sulpicio Lines and bars in Cebu City such as Yo Latino, Asle Bar, Padics Sport, Chibogs, K1, Vudu, Café Teatro, Forno, Cue Café, Backstreet Billiards, Sinners and Saints, Tequila Joe's, Patio Ecila, Kaona Grille, Gelo's and The Courtyard, and the NS Royal Pensione Cebu.

St. Clare five rises to 7-0 in Naascu caging

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	7	0
St. Clare	7	0
STI	4	2
New Era	4	3
UMak	2	4
CEU	2	5
AMACU	2	5
HAU	0	2
PLP	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(*UM Gym*)
2:30 p.m.—HAU vs STI (Srs)
4 p.m.—UMak vs HAU (Jrs)
5:30 p.m.—UMak vs HAU (Srs)

NINO Songco waxed hot again yesterday as St. Clare turned back Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 64-58, to sustain its unbeaten streak at 7-0 in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM Gym.

For the second day in a row, the veteran forward made things possible for the Saints by scoring 14 points and pulling down eight rebounds to lead St. Clare to a share of the lead with idle league bully University of Manila.

Songco, who last Thursday keyed the Saints' overtime victory over STI, provided leadership to the team which has been making waves in the 4-year-old league.

St. Clare wasn't exactly trampling the opposition the way UM has been doing since the league's birth, but the Saints, handled well by coach Joel Dualan, have been successful in employing a potent endgame through role-players like Songco, Ken Rivera and Benedict Manansala.

In women' action, Paula Lontok had 25 points and 12 rebounds to power AMA Computer to an 87-47 rout of St. Clare.

Chris Manalo poured in 24 points and pulled down 17 rebounds, while Christian Gobis hit 21 points and made 10 rebounds as UM whipped University of Makati, 81-60, in the juniors action.

Marc Anthony Reyes

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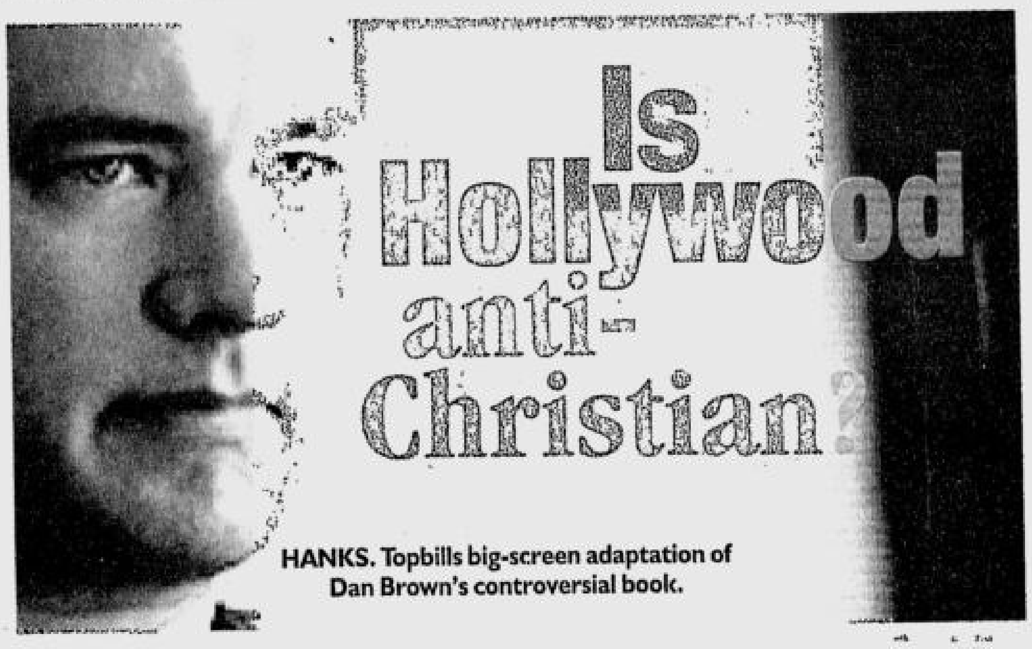
Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Is Hollywood anti-Christian?



HANKS. Topbills big-screen adaptation of Dan Brown's controversial book.

By Nestor U. Torre

THAT question first cropped up when when the script of "The Passion of the Christ" met such a lukewarm reception in the United States' movie capital that filmmaker Mel Gibson had to bankroll the production with his own funds (to the tune of $25 million).

(Of course, as everybody and his accountant know only too well, that daring gamble on Gibson's part ended up making him an incredibly wealthy man, as millions upon millions of viewers all over the world supported his film with their avid patronage.)

Thematic question

Instructively, our thematic question, "Is Hollywood anti-Christian?," is being asked again these days, but in a completely different light—in connection with the filming of Dan Brown's controversial novel, "The Da Vinci Code," directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks.

Since the novel more than hints at a "conspiracy" in the Catholic Church to keep Jesus Christ's "sensual" side hidden from the world, the material is deemed anti-Christian—more specifically, anti-Catholic.

The fact that the novel was a huge bestseller suggests that the movie will be just as controversial, and just as big a hit. But, will it be as incredibly successful as "The Passion of the Christ"? Film observers' verdict: Not likely.

As they see it, "Passion" was such a big hit because it "preached to the converted"—in other words, it was supported by Christians, again specifically Catholics, who wanted to get a cinematic affirmation of their faith.

Overwhelming success

"Da Vinci," on the other hand, debunks some Christian tenets and holy traditions, so many Christians could get turned off by it. Yes, its controversial nature could draw in millions of curious people, but they may not have the numbers to match "Passion's" overwhelming success.

Are the film's producers aware of this negative factor in the project's appeal? Yes. Are they doing anything to mitigate it, so that even Christians will be mollified into patronizing the production? Maybe.

A positive sign in this regard is the presence of director Ron Howard. He's never been known to be a controversial filmmaker, so he may have been hired precisely to temper the movie's potentially caustic edge.

GIBSON. He had to bankroll "The Passion of the Christ" with his own funds.

Tom Hanks also has a lot of positive vibe going for him, so he too could keep the movie on a more even keel. There's also the possibility that a new character could be added to the film version, who would reflect the Christian point of view, and thus provide the balance that the project sorely needs, in the opinion of its critics.

Hot topic

So, *is* Hollywood inherently anti-Christian? When "Passion" was a hot topic, some observers said they thought so, citing the "fact" that the film capital was "dominated" by Jewish producers and directors.

But, "Da Vinci" could be another case entirely. Its producer chose to film it, not because he was Jewish and wanted to diss the Christian faith, but because the novel was such a huge bestseller, and offered him the yummy prospect of his film version doing just as well at the box office! So, Hollywood's "counter-conspiracy" motivation in this instance is dubious, at best.

In any case, observers point out that "Da Vinci" posits a *theory*, not a fact, and viewers should be perceptive enough not to use it as an argument against the validity of the Catholic Church!

See the film, or don't see the film, and simply take it for what it's worth—which may or may not be a lot, depending on how the finished film will pan out, once it finally reaches our screens.

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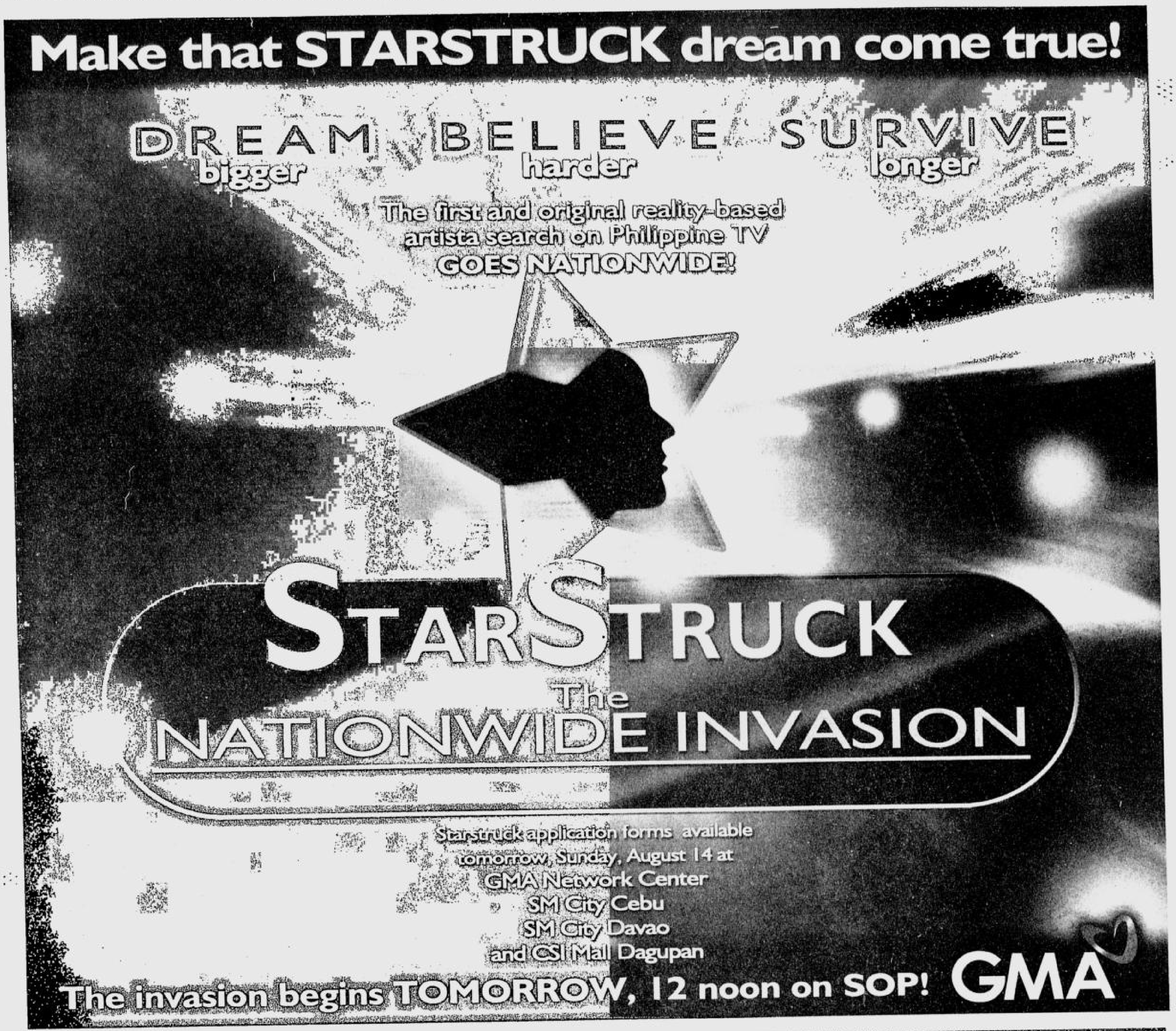
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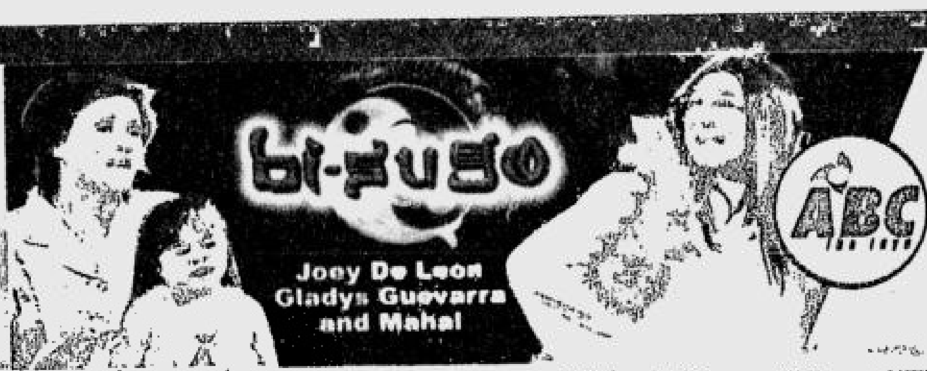
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, August 13, 2005


bi-kugo
Joey De Leon
Gladys Guevarra
and Mahal

ABC

WOW maling MaLi!
NGAYONG SABADO 9PM

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				Auto Review		Kamao		Ting ng Bayan (Live)		GSIS Member's Hour		Ting ng Bayan (Live)		ABF Tour 2005				Auto Focus	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig, The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Sabado Movie Greats			
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	Winner TV Shopping		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		Lizzie Mcguire	Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	Out Of Darkness		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped			
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IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Born Wild				Bitag		In This Corner		MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr Bean	Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Real Deal
MTV Philippines	5 Things About The Faders	Boiling Points # 206	John Legend In Concert		Viva La Bam # 202	Dismissed # 620	Wildboyz # 202	Punk'd # 403	One Bad Trip # 104	2005 MTV Movie Awards				MTV Play	Carmen & Dave # 105	Brand New	Fake ID Club 2005	MTV Play	Jamie Cullum Live at Blenheim Palace
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		Mobile MYX Top Picks	Top Of The Pops	MYX Live!		MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Presents: Taming the Beast, Inside the War On Cancer	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	World News	Spark	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN				WNBA Action	Int'l Basketball: Australia vs China				X-Games Files '04	Asian X Games '05 Seoul		Sportscenter Asia	2005 WPBA Great Lakes Classic Michigan USA Sports Desk		87th PGA Championship '05				
Solar Sports			TV Shopping																Rik Rocky Min Revue
Sports Plus				Tour De France Highlights		Lock and Load	Porsche md 10	Backyard 400 Highlights		BD Alaska	Golf Hawaii 2004	Ultimate Fighting Championship				3M C'ship Day2			
Cinemax	Deadfall (2:45 PM)				The Reality Of Love			100 Mile Rule			Hard To Kill			Cape Fear				National Security (11:05PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Fast Food High		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed Manipulation				Hustle		Wire In The Blood		Spin				Snow White			
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Dumbo			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Zenon: Girl Of 21st Century	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Evolver	One Step Beyond	Blueprint For Disaster		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Face To Face With The Bear		Creature Feature				Animals Like Us		The Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island			Cartoon Cartoon Show Lu	Grand Sazer	Crush Gear Nitro	Justice League	Space Ghost Coast to Coast	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less	El Extra 101 Sensational Camp Of Fashion		Fashion Trance	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		I Dare You		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
AXN		3 Ninja's Kick Back				WRC 2005		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Lost		Dracula Dead And Loving It			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Chat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			The Devil's Advocate (3:35 PM)					Intolerable Cruelty (6:50 PM)			Starship Troopers 2			Along Came Polly			The Frighteners		
Star Movies		Hackers (2:55 PM)			Courage Under Fire (4:40 PM)				True Lies (6:35 PM)					Black Hawk Down					The Sin Eater (11:25PM)
Cinema One	Kiss Mo Ko				Hula Mo Huli Ko				My Movie				Kumander Toothpick				Rocco The Adult Child		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factor C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis In Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Fil-Aussie bet hangs on in 'Rock Star' tilt

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST week's "Rock Star: INXs" talent competition on Star World was particularly exciting because the field of finalists had been pared down to just nine (from an original 15), and most of the "survivors" were gifted performers with their own compelling singing styles.

Favorites

Thus, as each singer performed, viewers had their hands full deciding who were the best of the best. Well, they eventually voted for their favorites, and as Wednesday's performance round ended, three of the finalists were listed in the tilt's bottom rung.

This turned out to be an interesting innovation because it enabled the three singers' diehard fans to vote again, and pull them out of cellar position.

Thus, the bottom three were initially named as Deanna, Brandon and Jessica, but the following day, they were joined by two more—Suzy and JD—and then, the *final* bottom three were announced: Brandon, Jessica and Suzy!

Yes, Deanna had managed to add to her initially low score, because her fans had come to her rescue! If this innovation could be implemented on other talent searches, it would make them more excitingly interactive, as well.

After the final bottom three had been announced, the INXs band members who served as the tilt's jurors expressed their surprise at learning that Suzy had rated so low in viewers' estimation.

The day before, they had raved about her audacious, edgy performance—and now, she could bow out of the competition!

Happily for Suzy, the choice of the finalist to be given his or her walking papers was left up to the INXs rockers—so, naturally, she survived.

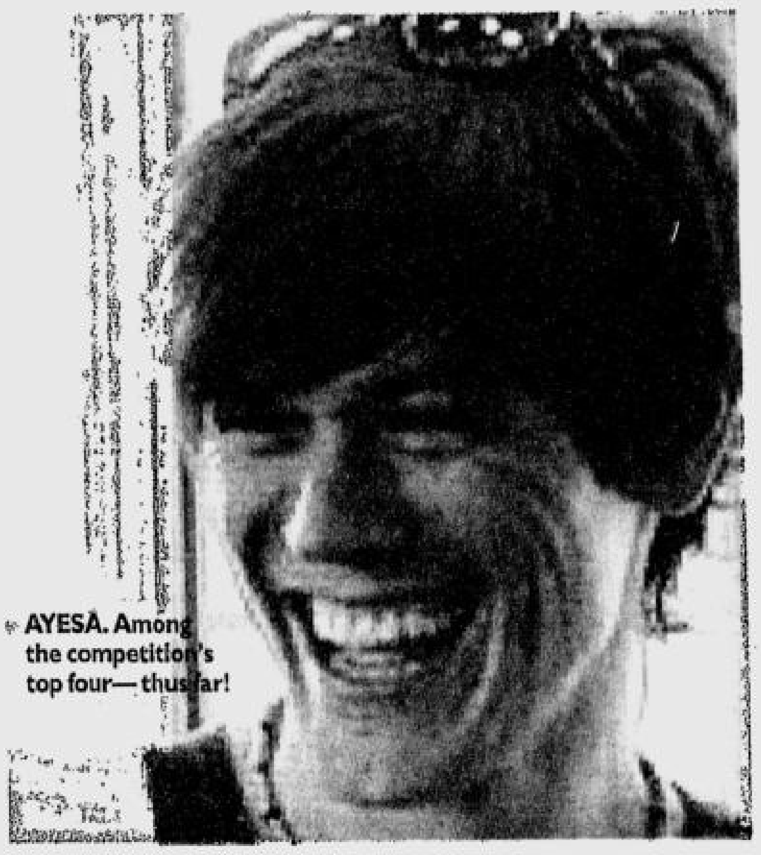
It was Jessica's turn to worry, because this was the *third* time she had landed in the bottom three. But, miraculously, she survived once more, and it was Brandon who had to go. His big booboo: He had messed up the lyrics of the song he'd sung the day before—a song that had been written by an INXs band member. Ouch!

In any case, the decision to let INXs make the final choice last week was a good move that did a lot to obviate viewers' occasionally misinformed decisions regarding finalists' comparative talent. Other talent searches should similarly adopt this innovation.

Finalist

The best news of all last week was that Fil-Aussie finalist Mig Ayesa ended up among the tilt's top four, as far as viewers' votes went. Hey, "our" bet could go the distance!

But, he was gently rapped by some INXs jurors for opting to be on the safe side, instead of following his best instincts when it came to song selection. They urged him to choose a less hectic, more emotionally expressive song to interpret this week—and Migs promised to do just that!


AYESA. Among the competition's top four—thus far!

Book for vegetarians

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

NONA Lema is not just a vegetarian, she also works to promote vegetarianism through free seminars and cooking demos.

Now, she has gone one step further by writing "Gulay," a book of vegetarian recipes.

Sure, there are numerous books on the subject, but my friend is focusing on dishes and desserts that truly appeal to Filipinos.

Nona started adopting a vegetarian diet in 1976. Those days were considered "the dark age of vegetarianism" in the country. If you were a vegetarian then, you would have been told that the only choices available were fried eggplant and *tokwa*.

Experiment

Nona started in that spartan vegetarian environment, then proceeded to experiment and create exciting dishes. Her book generously imparts the lessons she's learned through the years:

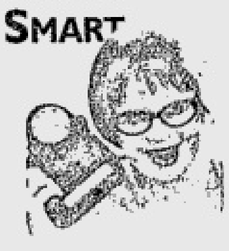
For soups, for example, we can choose from *gabing sinuang*, veggie "corned beef," *sabaw ng patani at mais*, or *sopas de mani*. There's also the fishless or meatless *sinigang*.

When it comes to main courses, the list that includes fried *tokwa* and eggplant has been expanded to include veggie "*paksiw na lechon,*" veggie "pork" marenggo, *kamaniang*, gluten lengua estofada, pescado *ala* cardillo and *tortang kabute*. And so much more!

If you want to try out these recipes, check out "Gulay" at National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Dental health

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

DR. Mitsy Navales-Antolin has been a pediatric dentist since 1998. Her clinic at suite 1710 of the Makati Medical Plaza on Dela Rosa corner Amorsolo sts. always teems with patients. Mitsy is licensed to practice both here and in California.

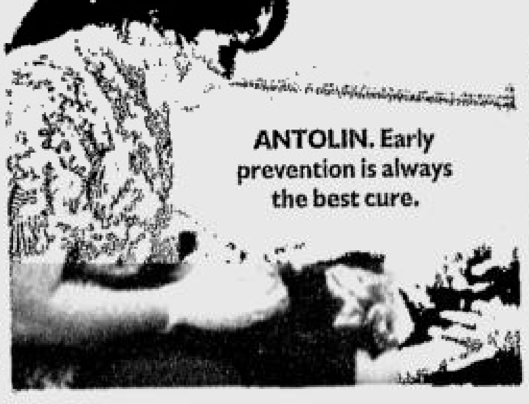
She got her degree in dental medicine at the University of the East, and completed her postgraduate program in pediatric dentistry at the Aichi-Gakuin University in Japan.

Milk residue

Mitsy says that early prevention is always the best cure. As soon as the first tooth appears, the child should start visiting his dentist. More tips: Don't wait until decay gets worse; wash off milk residue by giving water or wiping the child's gums with gauze pad or damp cloth; and children should brush their teeth daily with nylon bristles suitable to their age.

Even if kids resist brushing, it is a *must* that they brush regularly. Even seemingly minor tooth decay must be treated immediately because dental caries in children progress very fast. Start your child early on good dental habits. Call 817-4824.

Email mandynavasero @photopro.com.ph or call 899-1767.


ANTOLIN. Early prevention is always the best cure.

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Workshop for both new and experienced talents

Comprehensive exercises seek to develop heightened appreciation of performers' range and depth as singers and actors

EVER since he started his theater, TV and film directing career, Nestor U. Torre has gone out of his way to mentor and give breaks to promising new talents.

In "Magsimula Ka," it was Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Gigi Posadas, Jograd dele Torre, Triccia Amper, Bobby Martino, JonJon Briones. In "Katy!," Pinky Marquez, Pam Gamboa and Tenten Muñoz. In "Awit ni Kadugnung," Angelique Lazo and Bimbo Cerrudo.

In his latest musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," choice lead roles were played by newcomers Nicole David, Ira Marasigan, Myka Torre and Elijah Castillo.

On TV, Bey Vito made his debut in "Sanlinggo." In the movies, industry stalwarts Laurice Guillen and Tommy Abuel played their first movie roles in a film Torre directed.

Musical theater

Clearly, Torre has done more than his share in energizing local musical theater and show biz productions.

But, many more new talents need to be developed than can be accommodated by individual productions. So, starting Saturday, Aug. 20, the distinguished director and performance mentor will teach a four-month workshop, titled "The Total Performer," for Ryan Cayabyab's similarly acclaimed music studio at Sunvar Plaza in Makati.

LAUREL. Delivered one of his best performances in Torre's recent musical.

The comprehensive workshop will train both new and experienced talents, aged 14 years and older, in musical theater, club and recording performance, utilizing a combination of acting, singing and movement elements. Torre's workshop will be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., until Dec. 17. Call 844-3330, 847-2874 or 0917 909-6484.

Aside from new talents, established performers have also benefited from Torre's insightful refinement of their performance styles. He has a penchant for getting even veteran performers out of their comfort zones, to explore other aspects of their talent.

They find that the departure from their usual performances gives them a heightened appreciation of their range and depth as singers and actors, and further energizes their careers.

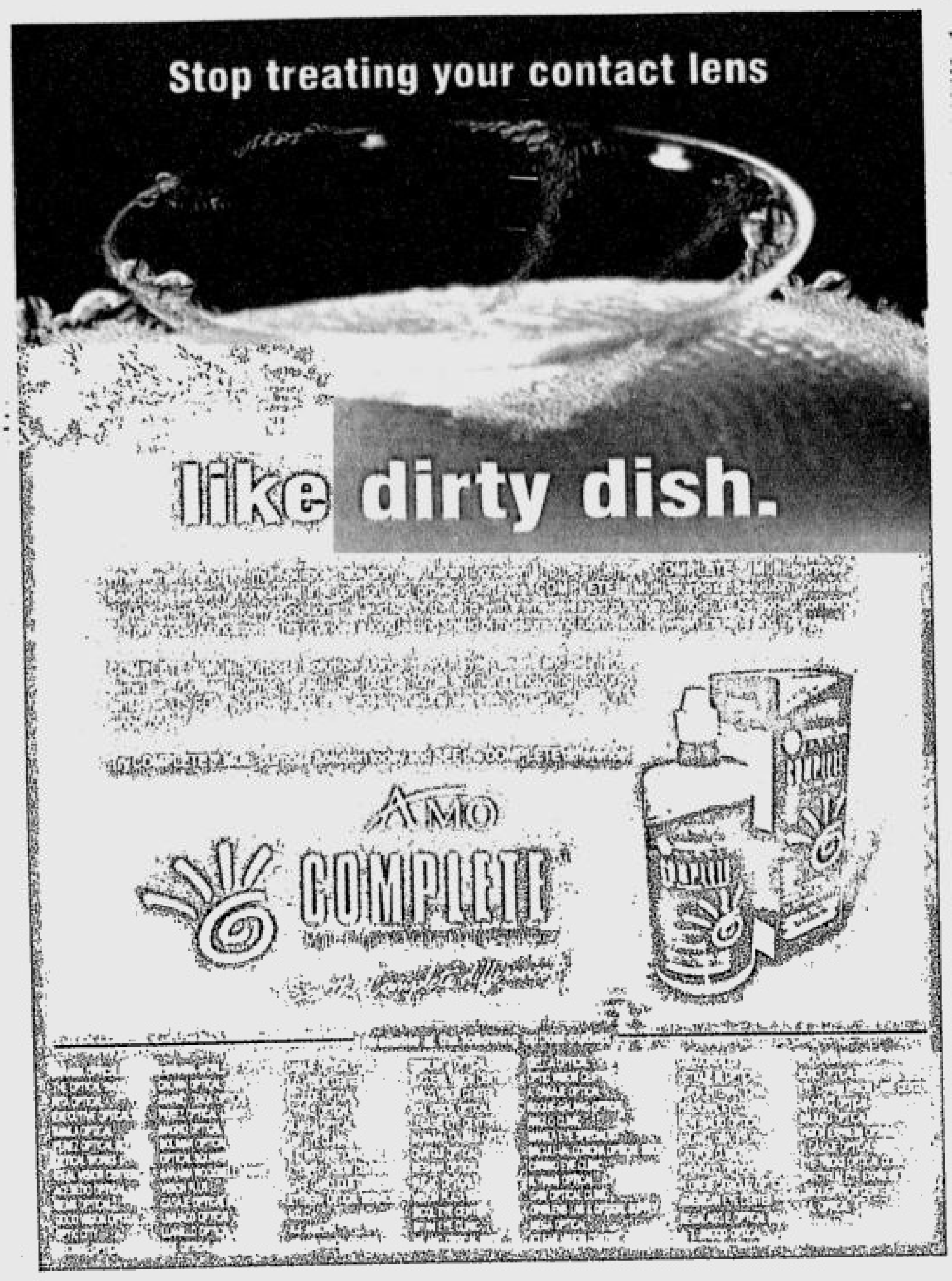
Audience psychology

With newcomers and veteran performers alike, Torre is keen on making talents appreciate such often overlooked areas of performance as script analysis, working relationships with directors and other actors, and audience psychology.

Armed with these new insights, the talents he mentors develop increased self-confidence, a "giving" attitude as performers, and respect for their audience.

In Torre's latest musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," he mentored new (Nicole David) and experienced (Ogie Alcasid, Cocoy Laurel) talents, as well as popular singers who were performing in musical theater for the first time (Ivy Violan).

All of these diverse performers got rave reviews for their portrayals, a sign that Torre's rigorous but caring mentorship works at different stages of performers' development.



MONTAGE

Trip to Singapore

YOU have until Aug. 15 to win a free trip to the MTV studios in Singapore. Apply for an MTV Credit Card now to get a chance to win the grand prize, which includes roundtrip airfare, two nights' hotel accommodation and meals, plus gift packs from Chocolate Clothing Co.

Every P300 charged to your MTV Credit Card during the promo period entitles you to one raffle entry. Log on to www.equitable-card.com/mtv.

'Video King'

Marco Sison's "Video King" mall tour hits Ever Commonwealth today at 5 p.m. Marco's "Videoke Kings" VCD and "Marco for All Seasons" CD continue to sell well.

'Halina sa Parokya'

Parokya ni Edgar's "Halina sa Parokya" album tour starts at 6 p.m. today at SM Megamall's Megastrip. The fave group's new single, "Mang Jose," is currently one of the most requested songs on the airlanes.

'KNN' goes to Cambodia

At 4 p.m. today on ABC-5, "Kabataan News Network" takes viewers to Siem Reap in Cambodia. The highlight of the show's visit to the progressive city is a detailed look at the world-famous Angkor temples.

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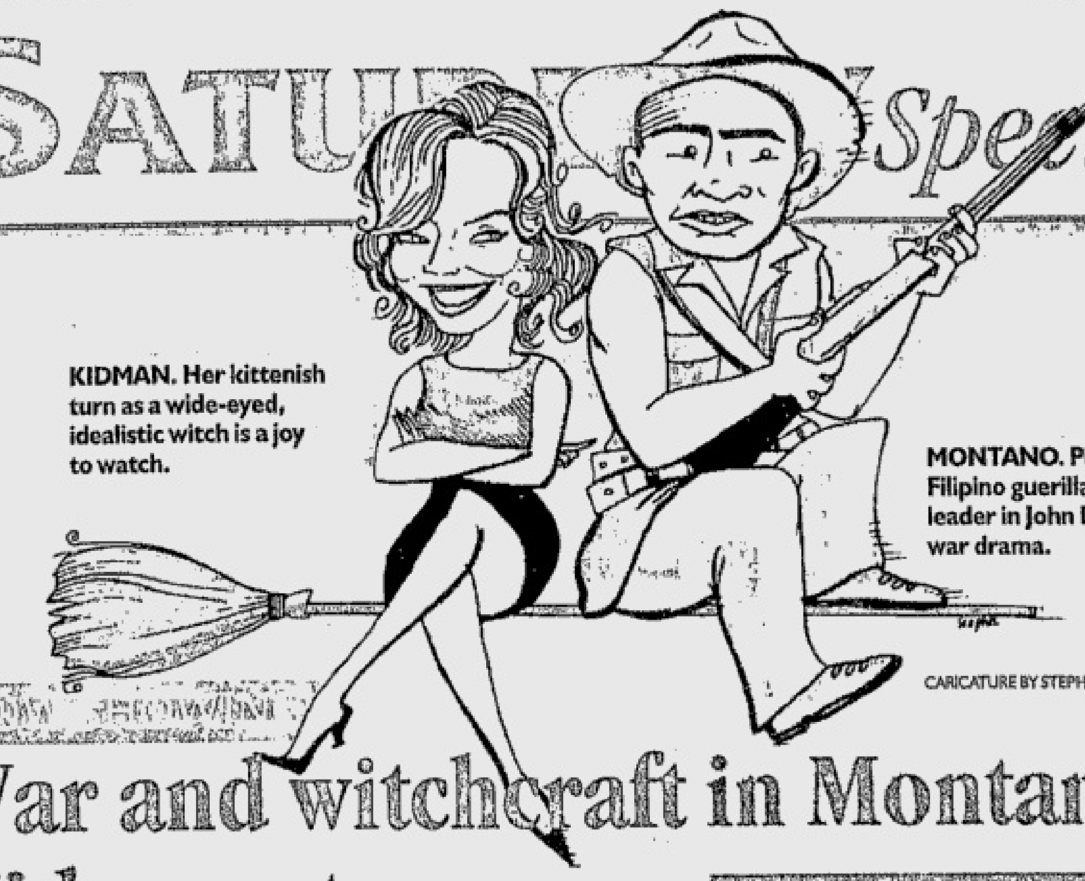
SATU Special



KIDMAN. Her kittenish turn as a wide-eyed, idealistic witch is a joy to watch.

MONTANO. Plays Filipino guerilla leader in John Dahl's war drama.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

NOW SHOWING

War and witchcraft in Montano, Kidman starrers

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Great Raid"

D: John Dahl

S: Benjamin Bratt, Cesar Montano, James Franco

WHAT is it about war and power that brings out the best and the worst in man? In John Dahl's mostly fact-based World War II drama, adapted from the books of William Breuer ("The Great Raid on Cabanatuan: Rescuing the Doomed Ghosts of Bataan and Corregidor") and Hampton Sides ("Ghost Soldiers"), a battalion of American military rangers led by Henry Mucci (Benjamin Bratt) and Robert Prince (James Franco) collaborates with Filipino underground forces led by Juan Pajota (Cesar Montano) to rescue 611 American prisoners-of-war (POWs) within five days in January 1945.

The "forgotten" soldiers, led by Daniel Gibson (a fictional character played by Joseph Fiennes), had been held captive under dire circumstances—starvation, hard labor, torture, exposure to malaria—for three years in one of the Japanese imperial army's notorious death camps in Cabanatuan. Artistic license is exercised by embellishing the adrenaline-fueled narrative

WAR/ A3-3

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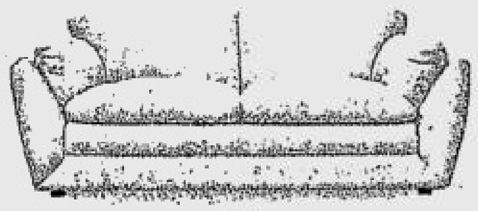

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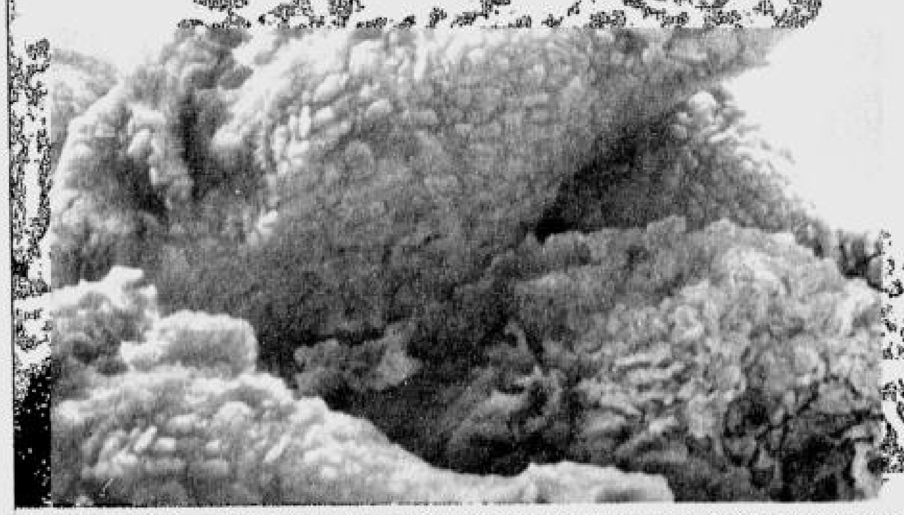


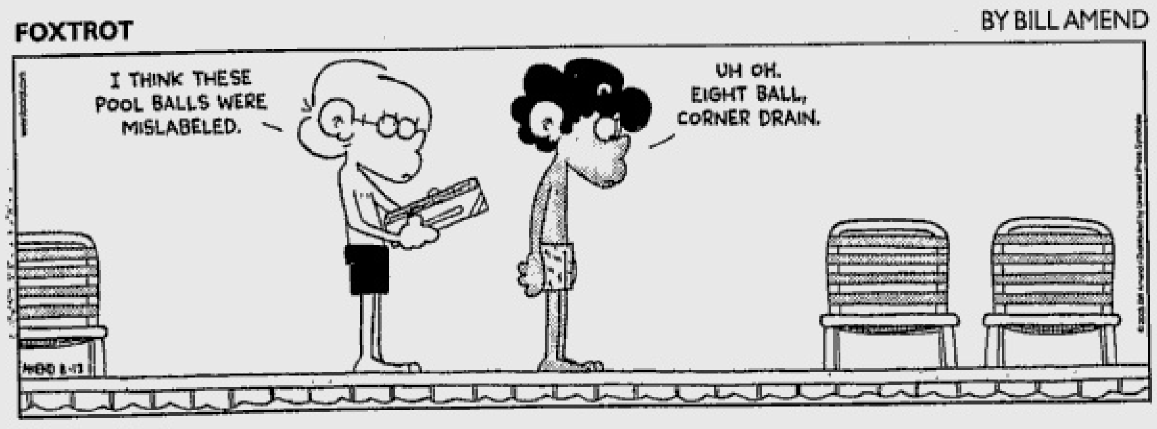
May pasalubong ka na ba?

Jollibee Drive Thru

METRO MANILA STORES: • ALABANG Alabang Junction • MANDALUYONG Acacia Lane / Maysilo • MANILA Rizal Park • MARIKINA Blue Wave Marquinton • MUNTINLUPA Shell C-5 / Shell SLT Southbound • PARAÑAQUE Betterliving / BF Homes / Sucat Road • PASAY Metro-Park Wave • PASIG One Mercedes / Pasig Rotonda / Pioneer / Shell C-5 Julia Vargas • QUEZON CITY E. Rodriguez / Green Meadows C-5 Libis / Banawe Maria Clara / Fairview Regalado / Sienna / UP Philcoa • RIZAL Sumulong Hi-way / Taytay Uptown • SAN JUAN Ortigas Roosevelt • TAGUIG Global City • PROVINCIAL STORES: • ALBAY Legaspi Rizal • BACOLOD La Salle / Lacson • BATANGAS Lipa Uptown / Sto. Tomas • BULACAN Baliuag Junction / Malolos Crossing / Petron North Luzon Tollgate / Pulilan Junction • CABANATUAN Circumferencial • CAGAYAN Tuguegarao Tanza • CAVITE GMA / Molino / Noveleta / Tanza / Trece Martirez • CEBU AS Fortuna / Guadalupe / Consolacion/ Mango • DAVAO Matina • GENERAL SANTOS Gensan Hi-way • ILIGAN Iligan • ILOCOS SUR Vigan • ILOILO General Luna • ISABELA Santiago Shell • LA UNION Agoo • LAGUNA Biñan Uptown / Calamba Crossing / Pacita Complex / Pagsanjan / Paseo de Sta. Rosa / San Pedro Town Center/ Shell SLT-Northbound / Sta. Rosa Commercial Center • OLONGAPO SBMA / Subic Bay • PAMPANGA Dolores Junction / Shell North Luzon Tollgate/ Sindalan / Total SLT-Northbound • PANGASINAN Calasiao / Carmen / Lucao/ Urdaneta • TACLOBAN Bethany • TAGAYTAY Junction • TARLAC Plaza Luisita • 24 HRS. DRIVE -THRU STORES: METRO MANILA Dolores Junction / E. Rodriguez / Green Meadows C-5 Libis/ Metropark-Wave/ Ortigas Roosevelt / Shell SLT Southbound / UP Philcoa • PROVINCIAL Cebu Mango

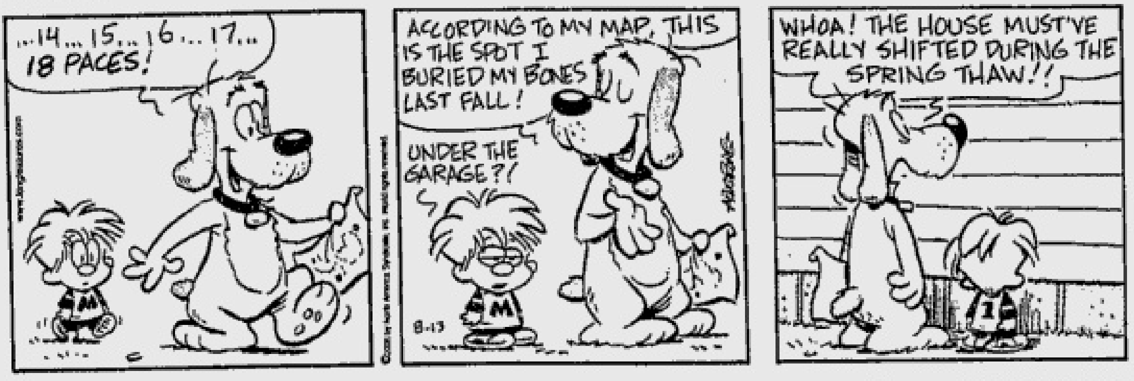
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I THINK THESE POOL BALLS WERE MISLABELED.
UH OH. EIGHT BALL, CORNER DRAIN.

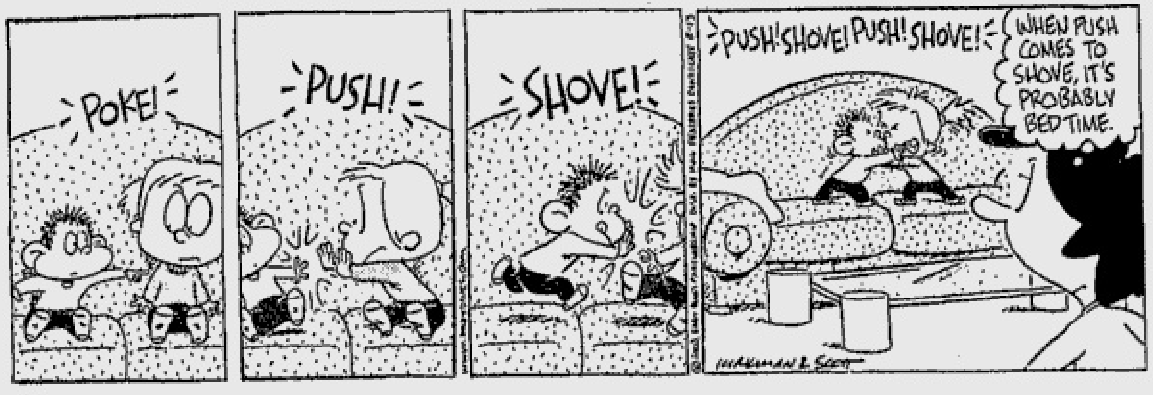
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


...14... 15... 16... 17... 18 PACES!
ACCORDING TO MY MAP, THIS IS THE SPOT I BURIED MY BONES LAST FALL!
UNDER THE GARAGE?!
8-13
WHOA! THE HOUSE MUST'VE REALLY SHIFTED DURING THE SPRING THAW!!

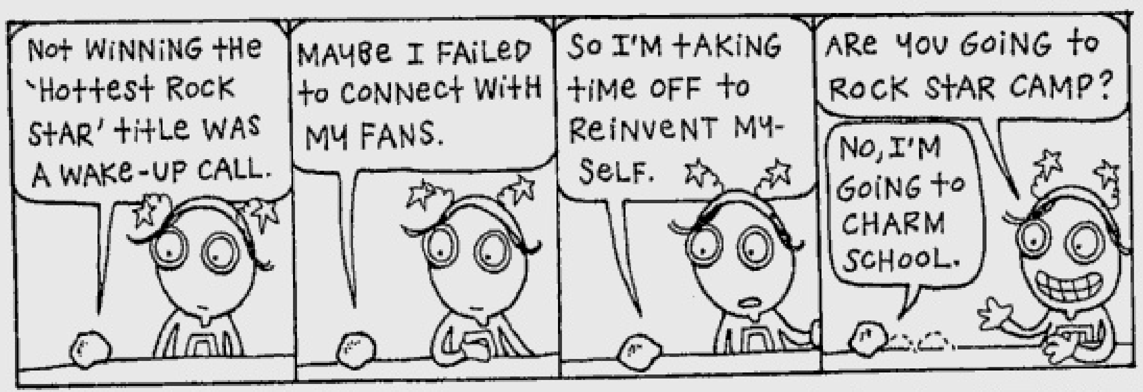
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


POKE!
PUSH!
SHOVE!
PUSH! SHOVE! PUSH! SHOVE!
WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, IT'S PROBABLY BEDTIME.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Not WINNING the 'Hottest Rock StAR' title WAS A WAKE-UP CALL.
MAYBE I FAILED to CONNECT WITH MY FANS.
So I'M tAKING time OFF to Reinvent My-SeLF.
ARe You GoiNG to Rock StAR CAMP?
No, I'M GoiNG to CHARM SCHooL.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Challenges seem to galvanize you into action. You rise to every occasion. In addition to this, you're courageous and never shrink from danger. Your idealism often places you in the role of the rebel. You will fight for the underdog. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh beginnings! (You'll love this.)
Birthdate of: Dan Fogelberg, singer/songwriter; Alfred Hitchcock, director; Annie Oakley, sharpshooter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Arguments with children and romantic interests are likely today. But you don't have to go there. Forewarned is forearmed. Put a smile on your face and demonstrate grace under pressure.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't get your belly in a rash about anything, especially talking to family members today. What does this gain? This is the very time you need to be tolerant with others and yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might be angry today and you don't even know it. If you're sharp and impatient with people, that's your first clue. A happy mind is never angry.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Financial differences with a friend might irk you today. Money is always a touchy subject. That's because there's never enough to go around. Avoid these discussions right now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't tangle with your boss today—or Mom or Dad. Don't try to prove anything. You feel rebellious and competitive. But this impulse will get you nowhere. Chill out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might feel worried about something; and this worry makes you feel agitated. (You might not even be aware of this.) It's not important, and it passes quickly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't quarrel with a friend or a member of a group today (especially about shared possessions). You can reach your objective by picking another day to have this discussion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with partners and close friends are extremely dicey today. Someone is looking for a fight, and it could be you. What's the point of this?

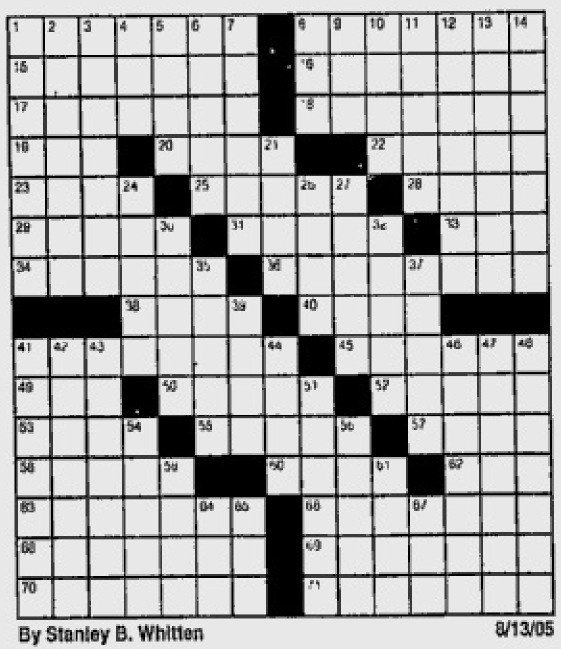
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be pushy at work today. Yes, you have the energy to get a lot done; but others might not have your energy. Be tolerant of co-workers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with children today. You also have to be patient with romantic interests. Perhaps you're demanding too much—or expecting too much. Either way, accept others for who they are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the classic day for an argument with partners. But who wins? Anger serves no purpose other than to make everyone miserable. Lighten up!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your relationship with co-workers could be problematic today. But it takes two to make a fight. If you step aside, things will not escalate. Don't judge others. (Who's perfect?)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/13/05

ACROSS
1 Traveling case
8 Ahead
15 Even more hokey
16 Wing surface
17 Check grabber
18 Bette Midler film
19 Traveler's stop
20 Mild Dutch cheese
22 Jotted down
23 Cole and Hentoff
25 Late-night bite
28 Smelter's residue
29 False gods
31 Dismal, in poetry
33 Compass pt.
34 Long-time Harvard president
36 Nabbed
38 Become weary
40 Hops kiln
41 Avian joint?
45 Diatribe
49 Gabor of "Green Acres"
50 Theatrical drop curtain
52 Type of orange
53 Ice mass
55 Strangely unsettling
57 Hemingway's sobriquet
58 Met songs
60 Building wings
62 Decay
63 More insane
66 Hate
68 Crescent-shaped opening
69 Lurer
70 Implore
71 Profligates

DOWN
1 Like photochemical reactions
2 Circular wind
3 Capital on the Delaware
4 Santa __ winds
5 Quote as a reference
6 Pays attention to
7 Golfer's task
8 Cereal grain
9 Govt. med. research agcy.
10 Tiny songbird
11 Bushy hairdos
12 Small tuber
13 Illness
14 Traveled by sleigh
21 Patagonian hare
24 Roster of candidates
26 Type of mackerel
27 Gold measure
30 Agitated states
32 Spruce juice
35 Tiny amount
37 Leather band
39 Irish homeland
41 Disastrous defeat
42 Spread swiftly throughout
43 Differing
44 Old Milano moola
46 Greed
47 Ouster
48 Click beetles
51 Damp coating of fungi
54 Steady starer
56 Actress Verdugo
59 Location
61 Mach toppers
64 Zeta follower
65 Part of AARP
67 Small indentation in a surface

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	L	F	■	S	P	A	M	■	S	E	I	Z	E
A	R	I	A	■	A	I	D	A	■	T	E	N	O	R
L	O	B	S	■	F	E	A	R	F	A	C	T	O	R
T	S	E	T	S	E	■	R	I	E	L	■	O	S	S
S	E	L	F	I	S	H	■	O	L	A	F	■	■	■
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O	V	A	■	M	E	T	A	■	R	E	T	I	R	E
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8/13/05

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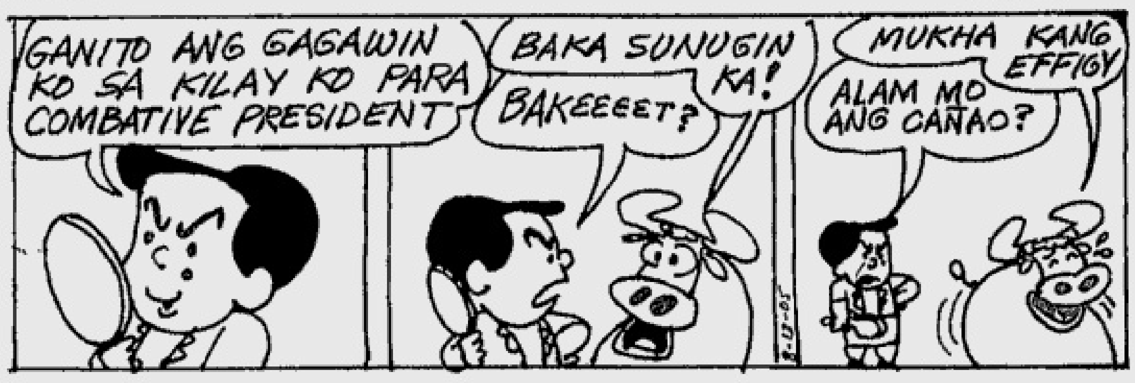
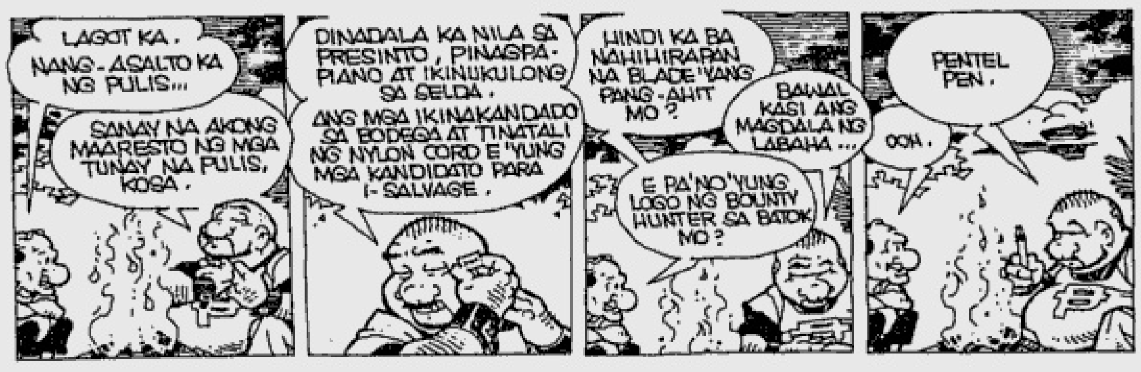
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GANITO ANG GAGAWIN KO SA KILAY KO PARA COMBATIVE PRESIDENT
BAKA SUNUGIN KA!
BAKEEEET?
MUKHA KANG EFFIGY
ALAM MO ANG CAÑAO?
8-13-05

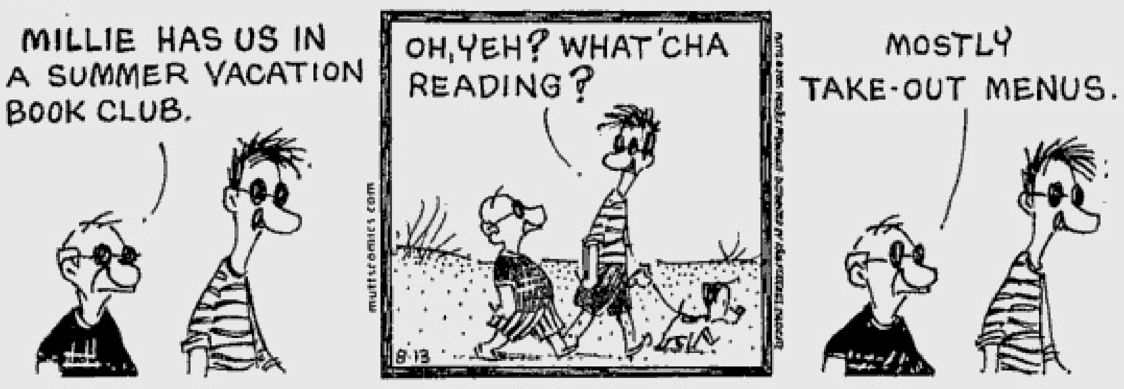
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


LAGOT KA. NANG-ASALTO KA NG PULIS...
SANAY NA AKONG MAARESTO NG MGA TUNAY NA PULIS, KOSA.
DINADALA KA NILA SA PRESINTO, PINAGPA-PIANO AT IKINUKULONG SA SELDA.
ANG MGA IKINAKANDADO SA BODEGA AT TINATALI NG NYLON CORD E 'YUNG MGA KANDIDATO PARA I-SALVAGE.
HINDI KA BA NAHIHIRAPAN NA BLADE 'YANG PANG-AHIT MO?
BAWAL KASI ANG MAGDALA NG LABAHA...
E PA'NO 'YUNG LOGO NG BOUNTY HUNTER SA BATOK MO?
PENTEL PEN.
OOH.

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MILLIE HAS US IN A SUMMER VACATION BOOK CLUB.
OH, YEH? WHAT'CHA READING?
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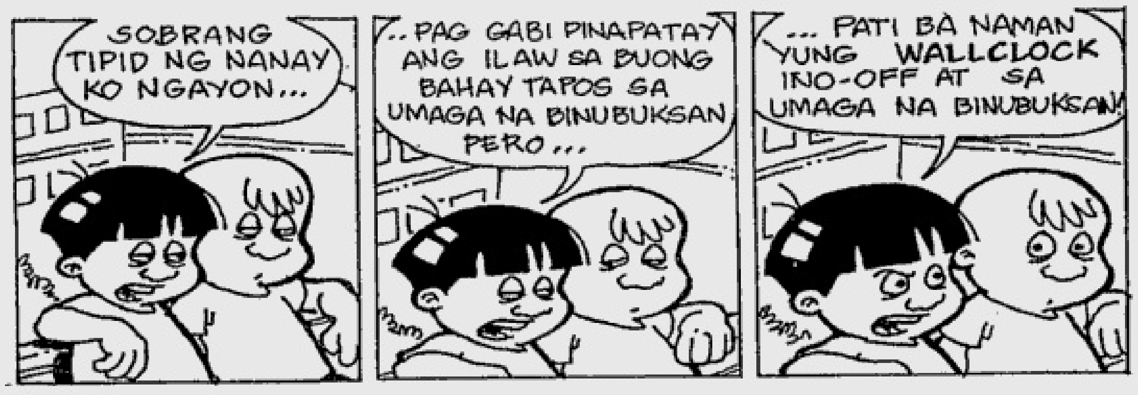
MOSTLY TAKE-OUT MENUS.

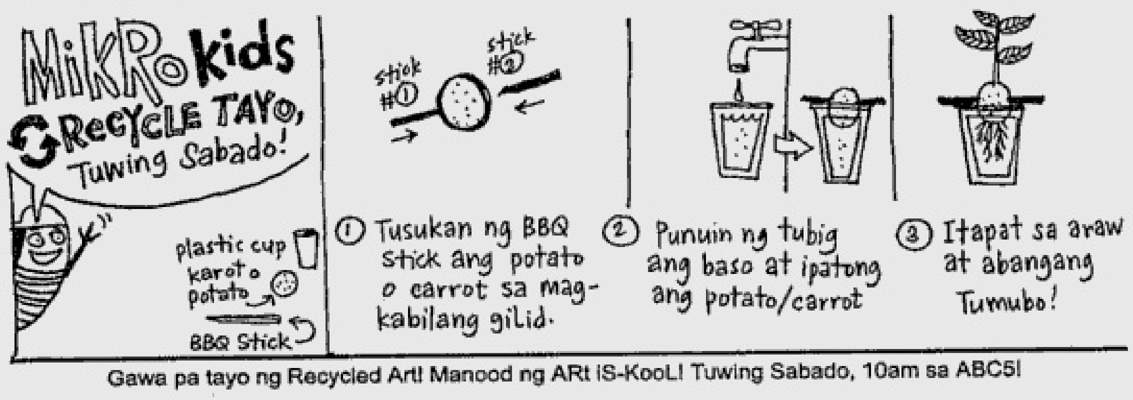
KAMOTE

BY RICKY BARBOZA


SOBRANG TIPID NG NANAY KO NGAYON...
..PAG GABI PINAPATAY ANG ILAW SA BUONG BAHAY TAPOS SA UMAGA NA BINUBUKSAN PERO...
... PATI BA NAMAN YUNG WALLCLOCK INO-OFF AT SA UMAGA NA BINUBUKSAN!

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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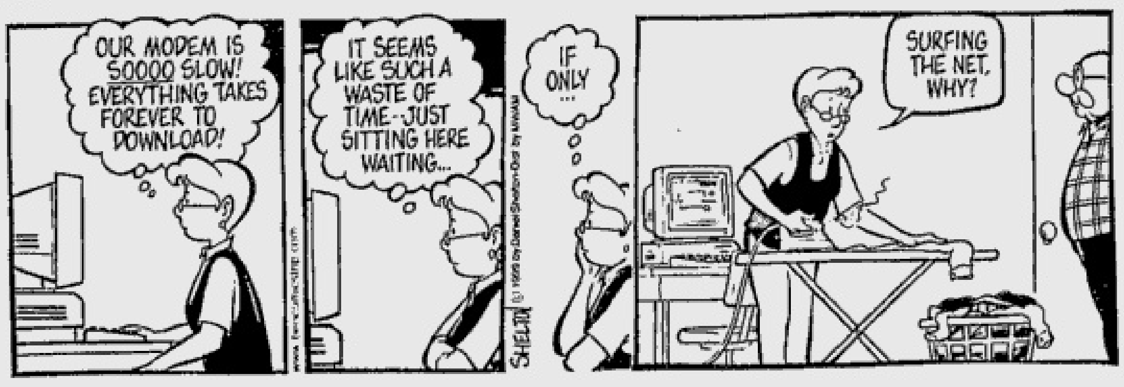
karot o potato
BBQ Stick
stick #1
stick #2
① Tusukan ng BBQ stick ang potato o carrot sa magkabilang gilid.
② Punuin ng tubig ang baso at ipatong ang potato/carrot
③ Itapat sa araw at abangang Tumubo!

Gawa pa tayo ng Recycled Art! Manood ng ARt IS-KooL! Tuwing Sabado, 10am sa ABC5!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON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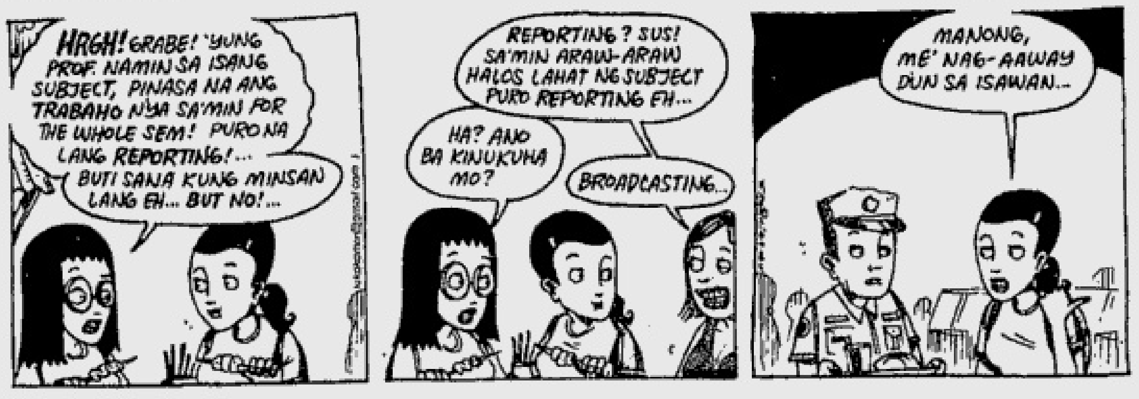
IT SEEMS LIKE SUCH A WASTE OF TIME-JUST SITTING HERE WAITING...
IF ONLY ...
SURFING THE NET, WHY?
SHELTON

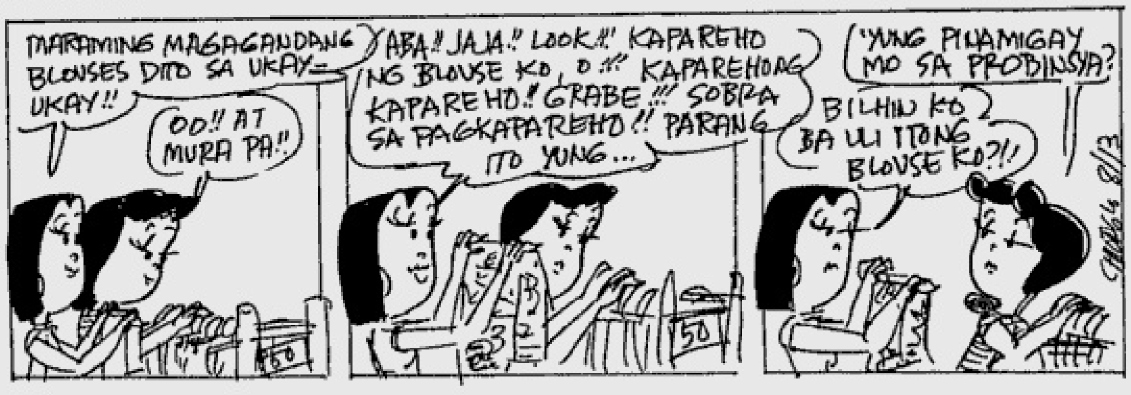
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRGH! GRABE! 'YUNG PROF. NAMIN SA ISANG SUBJECT, PINASA NA ANG TRABAHO N'YA SA'MIN FOR THE WHOLE SEM! PURO NA LANG REPORTING!...
BUTI SANA KUNG MINSAN LANG EH... BUT NO!...
REPORTING? SUS! SA'MIN ARAW-ARAW HALOS LAHAT NG SUBJECT PURO REPORTING EH...
HA? ANO BA KINUKUHA MO?
BROADCASTING...
MANONG, ME' NAG-AAWAY DUN SA ISAWAN...

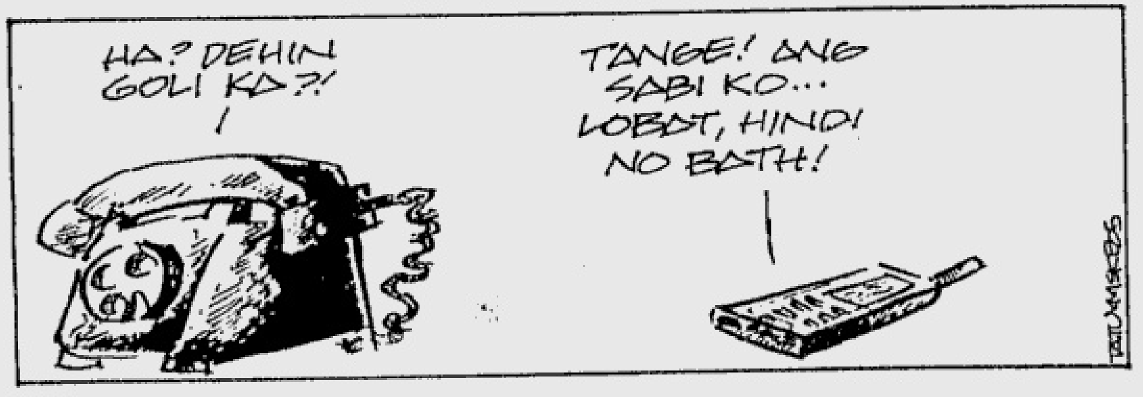
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARAMING MAGAGANDANG BLOUSES DITO SA UKAY-UKAY!!
OO!! AT MURA PA!!
ABA!! JAJA!! LOOK!! KAPAREHO NG BLOUSE KO, O!!! KAPAREHONG KAPAREHO!! GRABE!!! SOBRA SA PAGKAPAREHO!! PARANG ITO YUNG...
'YUNG PINAMIGAY MO SA PROBINSYA?
BILHIN KO BA ULI ITONG BLOUSE KO?!!
8/13

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HA? DEHIN GOLI KA?!
TANGE! ANG SABI KO... LOBAT, HINDI NO BATH!

Cesar is one of the standouts in 'The Great Raid'

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from evaluating "The Great Raid" as a movie, we went to see it in order to see how well Cesar Montano projected himself in it, so we could determine if he could really make it in Hollywood.

The verdict? Yes, he did come on strongly as the Filipino guerilla leader in the film. He wasn't given full lead credit, but he did get a solo frame for his name as the closing credits unreeled—and that's no mean feat.

Also, he had a number of solo shots and even close-ups, and that says a lot about how important the production felt his character was to its story.

Intense demeanor

In terms of performance, Cesar's "bald" look, shabby clothes, buff physique, piercing eyes, strong voice and generally intense demeanor made him stand out in a film awash with white Americans.

Yes, some other producers who watch the film may find him interesting and different enough to be given follow-up roles in their own projects.

But, is this incentive enough for the Filipino actor to pull up his stakes here for a time and try his luck in Hollywood? The answer to that is iffy.

—Unless Cesar has already established contacts there, perhaps with the help of the American film people he worked with in "The Great Raid." That would raise his chances of success considerably—especially if a good, well-connected agent has already been lined up for him. Influential agents are a must in Hollywood.

Even then, however, things generally move slowly on the American movie scene, with some projects taking years to gestate, before they finally face the cameras.

Instructive example

"The Great Raid" itself is an instructive example of this: The film was given the green light years ago, shot and sent into post-production, and then put on the shelf for a long time as its producers waited out the distaste for violence brought on by a slew of terrorist attacks and the war in Iraq.

To really make it in Hollywood, a newcomer can't have only a couple of irons in the fire. Even highly-touted projects don't make it to the big screen, so talents must have a lot of prospects in various stages of development in order to make a major change of address and career focus worthwhile.

Still and all, Cesar may be telling himself that he's no spring chicken, so if he wants to try his luck on the US film scene, it has to be *now*.

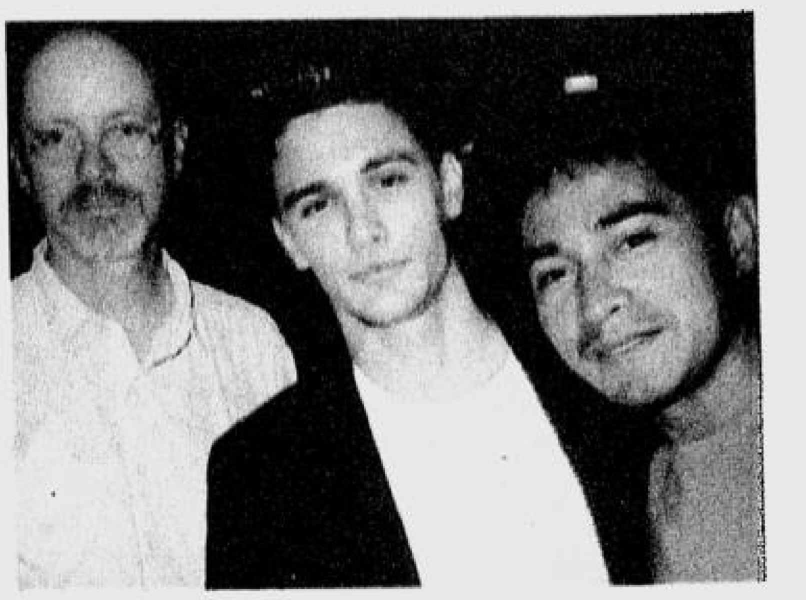
Yes, he can give himself a couple of years to do his darnedest to make it there—and if it doesn't work out, he can resume his acting and directing career here.

That does make some sort of sense. After all, this is the Decade of the Asian in US films, so doors could be opening wider for him at this point in time.

Beyond logic

Beyond logic, however, if we had our druthers, we wish that Cesar would opt to stay here and just fly abroad for the occasional international shoot. Why? Because, with "Panaghoy sa Suba," he's already started a significant alternative cinematic movement here that deserves his full attention.

What a pity if it would all be for naught because he decided to pursue his elusive Hollywood dream. Call us sentimental, call us impractical—but Cesar, we need you here!



MONTANO (RIGHT) with director John Dahl (left) and co-star James Franco.

War and witchcraft...

From page A3-1

with a dash of tragic romance—between Gibson and real-life wartime spy, Margaret Utinsky (Connie Nielsen).

Don't get us wrong: "The Great Raid" is *not* a rotten movie. But, it sadly fails in areas where it should have succeeded: The film reenacts "the most successful rescue mission in US military history" efficiently enough, but the director's rote and simplistic execution of the "great" raid lacks the cinematic punch that its inspiring historical gist needs, and robs the film of its tension.

Some scenes glimmer with lovely recreations of circa-1940s Manila—like the walled city of Intramuros. But, flashes of scenographic brilliance and visual design can only do so much to elevate a languid pace and a languorous exposition. Our other quibbles: Paolo Montalban is wasted in a small role; Nielsen speaks better Tagalog than Fil-Australian Natalie Mendoza, and the supposedly *Pinoy taumbayans* look too Chinese!

Bratt, Nielsen, Fiennes, Mendoza, Logan Marshall-Green (as the loyal Lt. Paul Colvin) and Franco (in his eerie James Dean gaunt and gait) inhabit their characters with heartfelt earnestness. Moreover, it's great to see familiar *Pinoy* faces (Ebong Joson, Nor Domingo, Joel Trinidad, etc.) light up the screen in otherwise measly roles.

For his part, Cesar Montano delivers a passionate albeit decorative turn, but we doubt if this is one of those career-boosting performances that will have Hollywood's movers and shakers knocking on his door—but, hey, we could be wrong!

"Bewitched"

D: Nora Ephron
S: Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell

Nora Ephron's moderately entertaining update is *not* a remake of the popular 1964 sitcom—about a white witch (Elizabeth Montgomery) married to an ordinary man (Dick York/ Dick Sargent) who uses magic to thresh out domestic snags.

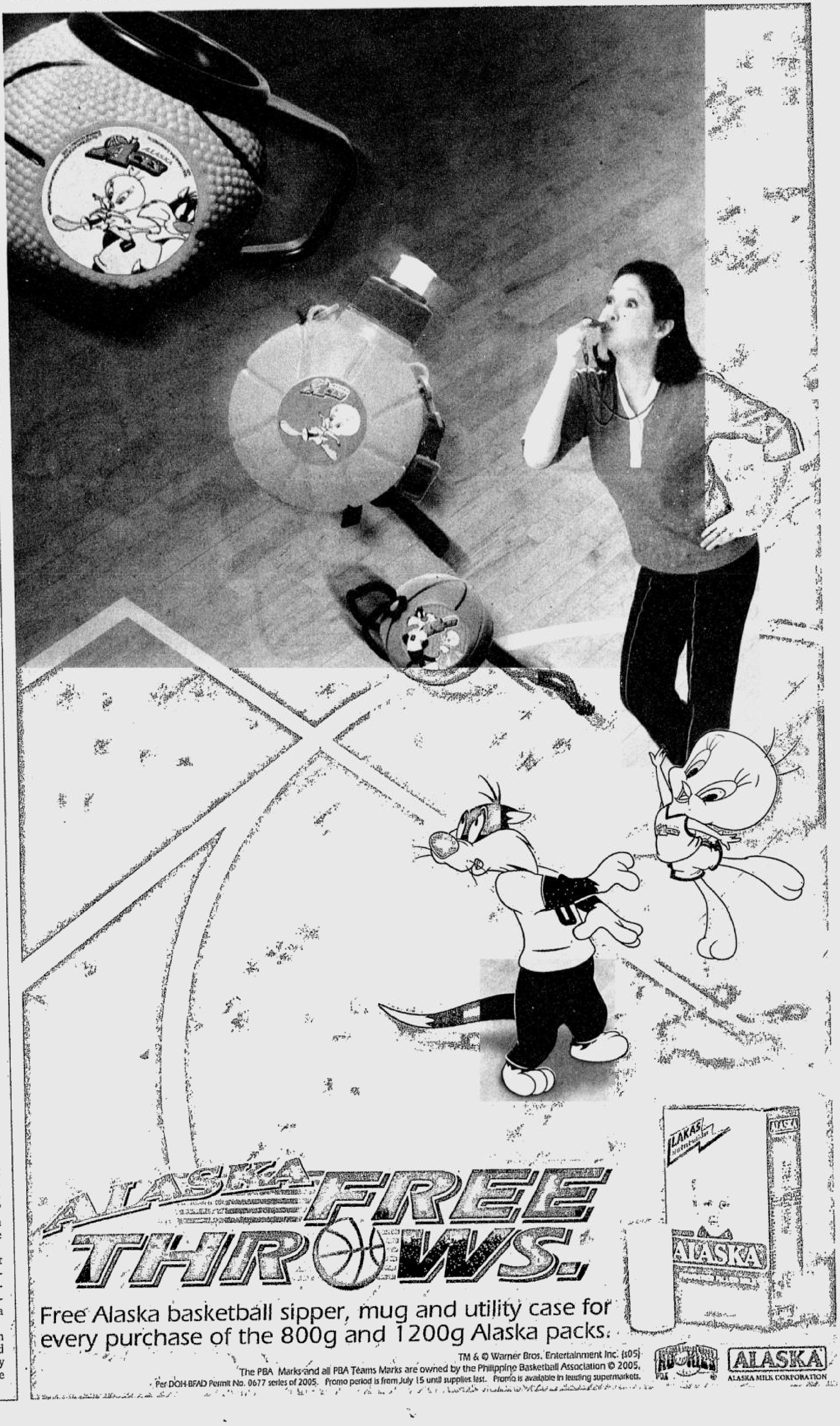
Set in modern-day California, the movie follows naïve witch, Isabel Bigelow (Kidman) as she resolves to lead a "normal" life by disavowing her supernatural skills—*except* when she needs to buy a new house, a car, or when she has to pay her grocery bills!

Then, she meets self-absorbed actor, Jack Wyatt (Will Ferrell), who wants to put his dwindling career back on track by appearing in a remake of "Bewitched"—preferably with a subservient, unknown actress in the role of Samantha, to make sure nobody (not even the scene-stealing Iris/Endora, played by the magnificent Shirley MacLaine) outshines him. But, magic and serendipity have a way of putting things—and romance—in their proper place.

Kidman is obviously more relaxed here, and her kittenish turn as a wide-eyed, idealistic witch is a joy to watch. But, blame the prolific actress' Oscar-caliber thespic profundity for making it hard for her to shake off her tragic-heroine gravitas in light comedy starrers like Frank Oz's "Stepford Wives" (where she plays a robot) and Griffin Dunne's "Practical Magic" (where she *also* portrays a witch).

Indeed, there are inspired scenes that elicit unfettered delight, and heart-warming moments that teach the star-crossed pair lessons in achieving genuine happiness and finding true love in a world of make-believe.

It's unfortunate, however, that Kidman and Ferrell don't make a good match—there just isn't enough chemistry between them! And that's where the movie fails to cast its magic spell.



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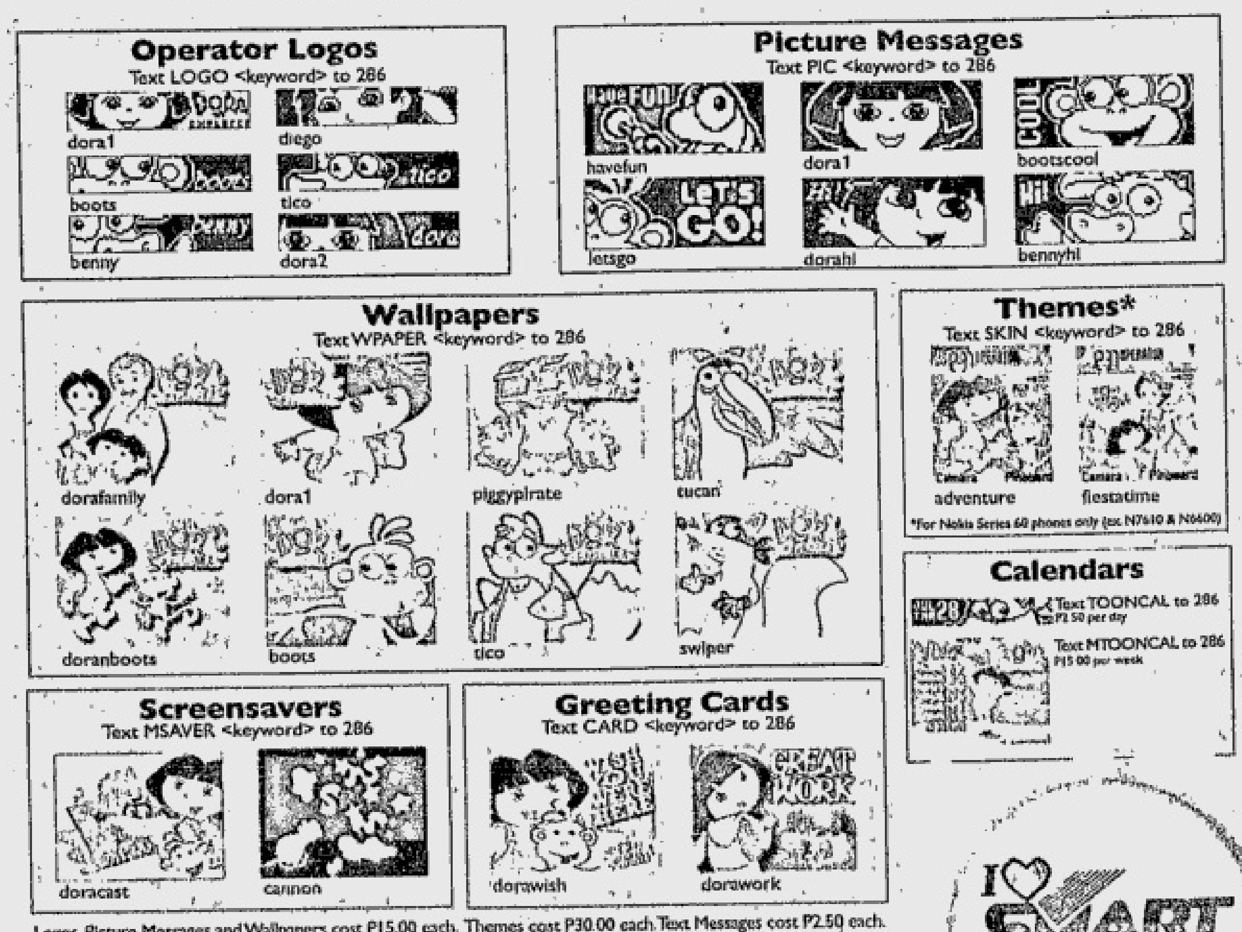

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Peso closes at 3-wk high of 55.645:$1 /B2
Ayala profit jumped 49% in 1st half /B2

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Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Lucio Tan seen matching bid for PNB

ONLY two bidders, the Unionbank-Avenue Capital group represented by Fe Macalino and the Lucio Tan camp represented by Domingo Chua, showed up in yesterday's bidding for a 67-percent stake in PNB at the PDIC headquarters.

Unionbank offers ₱16.98B for 67% stake

By Doris C. Dumlao and Daxim L. Lucas

THE ABOITIZ group's Union Bank of the Philippines yesterday outbid the Lucio Tan group during the government-led auction of a 67-percent stake in Philippine National Bank, but the tobacco magnate is seen matching the highest offer of P16.98 billion within the next 15 days.

"It is very likely that we'll match it," said Cecilia Pesayco, legal counsel for the Tan group who was present during the bidding.

"What's 77 centavos?" commented a former PNB official and ranking Lucio Tan lieutenant after the bids were unsealed. "We will definitely match that bid very soon."

"We have plans to really develop this bank," said the official, who requested anonymity.

The official added that Tan was "very liquid" and ready to shell out the cash on short notice, especially since the group had only recently tried but failed to acquire a controlling stake in Singapore-based food manufacturer Del Monte Pacific.

"We still have that money with us," the official said. And since Tan already owns half of the stake that was bid out, he only needs to shell out P8.49 billion to match Unionbank's offer and regain control of the country's fifth biggest bank in terms of assets.

"I have no doubt about it [that Lucio Tan will match Unionbank's bid]," said former finance undersecretary Eric Recto, now a director at PNB.

Unionbank tied up with another prequalified bidder, Avenue Capital Group, and ended up as the lone challenger to the Tan group during the auction at the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. headquarters. It offered to buy the controlling block in PNB for P43.77 a share or slightly above the floor price of P43.

The block put up for sale is jointly owned by the government with about 186 million preferred and common shares and the Tan group with about 370.7 million common shares and warrants.

As expected, the Tan camp priced its bid at the government's

LUCIO/B3

Sy hikes stake in San Miguel to 11%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. of retail tycoon Henry Sy has increased its stake in southeast Asia's biggest food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. to 11 percent.

The SM group yesterday said it acquired an additional 4.6-percent stake in San Miguel for about P9 billion. SM Investments bought a total of 143 million class "A" shares at P63 each from the SMC Retirement Fund. The acquisition was made at the Philippine Stock Exchange through five block sales.

"SM's increased investment in San Miguel is a testament to its growing optimism on the latter's long-term potential," Jose Sio, SM's corporate information officer said in a statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sio said San Miguel's expansion into foreign markets should improve the earnings prospects of the food and drinks firm and would be a natural hedge against the volatility of the domestic business.

"Over the long haul, we expect San Miguel's expanded international business operations to serve as its new platform for growth, hence improving its earnings prospects. This, in turn, should enhance shareholders' values for San Miguel, which augurs well for SMIC," Sio added.

On Thursday, San Miguel—owned 20 percent by Japan's Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd.—reported a drop of more than 8 percent in second-quarter profits from a year earlier due to the impact of higher raw material costs and interest payments.

San Miguel's debt has grown to more than P100 billion as it funds aggressive acquisitions.

The food and drinks firm bought 100 percent of Australia's biggest producer of fresh dairy

SY/B3

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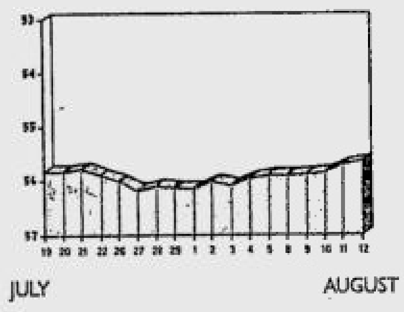

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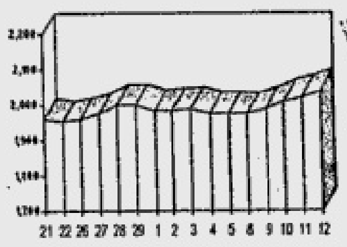
₱55.645 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2005

¥109.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2005

GOLD: $448.80-449.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 12, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.71% higher



SHARE prices closed 0.71 percent higher yesterday on strong interest in select blue chips, dealers said.

They said investors were taking positions ahead of the Supreme Court's expected ruling later this month on the legality of a new value-added tax law, the centerpiece of the government's efforts to address a worrying reliance on debt-based financing.

The composite index added 14.40 points to 2,038.10, a new two-month high. It traded between 2,023.70 and 2,049.65.

Turnover reached 1.15 billion shares worth P4.59 billion. The broader all-shares index rose 5.33 points to 1,230.32. Gainers outnumbered losers 55 to 25, with 42 stocks ending unchanged.

Dealers said investors welcomed the generally positive first-half profit results as an indication that select blue chips will remain profitable for the remainder of the year despite record-high oil prices and softening consumer demand.

SHARES/B3

Finance, DOJ to review program vs tax cheats

By Daxim L. Lucas

TAX evasion cases are expected to progress at a faster clip after the top brass of the finance and justice departments agreed to review and refine the procedures under the controversial Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

In an interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said he expected to be able to sustain the weekly filing of complaints against suspected tax cheats before the State Prosecutor's office--a practice initiated by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

"Definitely, we will be able to move faster," he said. "Maybe we can file cases once a week."

Finance officials have lodged 28 complaints against suspected tax evaders before the Department of Justice since March of this year.

Bickerings between both departments and doubts as to the quality of the strength of the evidence assembled by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) meant that all complaints remained at the preliminary investigation case.

The filing of complaints was suspended briefly when Purisima and former Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. left the Arroyo Cabinet last month.

The problem was compounded when BIR officer-in-charge Jose Mario Buñag announced that he was willing to compromise on tax evasion cases as long as the suspects settled their tax liabilities with the government.

Teves and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales met on Thursday afternoon to "iron out the kinks" in the prosecution of tax cheats.

The Finance chief said that at least one case was almost ready for filing with the Court of Tax Appeals since the evidence presented to support it was "clear". He did not elaborate.

The heads of both departments also agreed to cooperate on future cases to ensure the smooth flow of information among the agencies involved. Apart from the DOF, the heads of the BIR, the Bureau of Customs, and officials of the State Prosecutors' Office will also be asked to coordinate more closely on the tax evasion cases.

"We all have to go through a training program," he said. "It is useful for us to be able to understand each other."

Teves explained that a framework would be developed and put in place so that officials from both departments would know how to proceed on future tax evasion complaints.

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Ayala profit jumped 49% in H1

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BOLSTERED by the strong earnings of its banking arm and the sale of shares in its property and utility units, Ayala Corp. yesterday reported a 49-percent jump in its net income to P3.7 billion in the first half, from P2.5 billion in the same period last year.

Strong earnings growth from banking affiliate Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), and gains from the sale of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) and Manila Water Co. shares after the latter's initial public offering early this year, compensated for the 38-percent decline in the earnings of its mobile phone subsidiary, Globe Telecom, during the period.

Ayala president and chief executive officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II noted that "the heightened competition and the volatility in the political environment will certainly pose a challenge" to the country's oldest conglomerate.

"But we are confident that our operating subsidiaries will remain resilient given their strong positions in their respective markets and the strategic initiatives set in place," Zobel said.

Meanwhile, the portfolio of companies under AC Capital contributed P1.8 billion in equity in net earnings to Ayala in the first half, 65 more than last year.

Consolidated equity in net earnings of the Ayala group increased 73 percent to P8.2 billion.

Property subsidiary Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) posted consolidated profits of P1.8 billion in the first half of the year, up 63 percent versus the same period last year.

Earnings were enhanced partly by the one-time gain from the sale of its stake in the MRT-3 project in the first quarter.

Recurring revenues also remained strong, sustained by brisk sales of most product lines. Revenues were up 46 percent year-on-year to P11.8 billion.

ALI's leasing business posted a 16-percent increase year-on-year as a result of an expanded gross leasable area with Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio Global City, and the expansion of SM Makati, higher rental fees in commercial centers, office rental rates, as well as hotel room rates.

BPI, meanwhile, posted a 23 percent year-on-year increase in net income in the first half of the year to P4.3 billion due to higher interest and non-interest income.

Globe Telecom, meanwhile, was weaker in the first half as net income fell 38 percent to P4.2 billion.

The decline in Globe's profit was mainly due to a higher tax charge as its income tax holiday ended in March, increased network operating expenses and marketing costs, and slower revenue growth.

Utility firm Manila Water Co. reported net income in the first half was at P986 million, 52 percent higher than the same period last year.

Continued improvement in operating efficiency with the further reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) and higher billed volume pushed revenues 36 percent higher year-on-year to P2.8 billion.

Non-revenue water also reached an all-time low of 36.1 percent at end-June, surpassing earlier targets while average billed volume grew 9 percent year-on-year.

Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) also contributed strongly to AC Capital's earnings. First half net income reached P590 million, 11 percent higher than first half 2004 earnings of P531 million.

The company recently signed a conditional merger agreement with Singapore-based EMS company Speedy-Tech Electronics Ltd.

The combined operations will enable IMI to have instant access to three plants in China and will increase and diversify its customer base.

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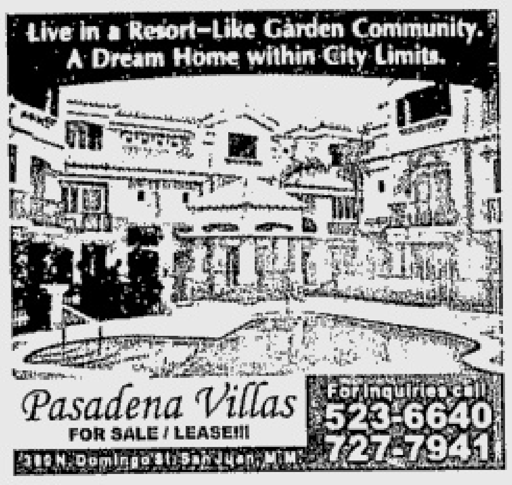
AUCTION DATE: AUG. 14, 2005, (SUN) 10:30 A.M.
OVER 800 LOTS: KIA BONGO WIDE TRUCK, 65KVA DETROIT, AIR COMPRESSOR, KOPPEL 5-7 TONNER AIRCON, STEEL RACK, BENCH GRINDING MACHINE, TIRE RIMS, SUBMERSIBLE PUMP, A-FRAME W/ CHAIN 100 TONS CAPACITY, WHEEL CHAIRS, BRAND NEW BEDS, JAPANESE KITCHEN CABINET, CHANDELIERS, COMPUTERS, REFRIGERATORS, CHEST TYPE FREEZER, OFFICE PARTITIONS AND ACCESSORIES, IMPORTED WINES, IMPORTED BEERS, AMPLIFIERS, SPEAKERS, KITCHENWARES, HARDWARES, POWERTOOLS AND MANY MORE...
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: AUG. 12-13, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P 5,000.00
** NEGOTIATED SALE **
HEAVY EQUIPMENT & MACHINERIES
BOLTS AND NUTS MANUFACTURER
(MARULAS, VALENZUELA)
VIEWING STARTS ON AUG. 15, 2005, 10:00 A.M. ONWARDS
AUCTION
721-3233; 299-8333; (0919) 643-8362

Liberty seeks investors



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By Clarissa S. Batino

LIBERTY Telecoms Holdings Inc. is scouting for new investors that could put in fresh equity to bankroll its expansion program.

Controlled by the family of Raymond Moreno, Liberty Telecoms is restructuring P1.3 billion in loans.

The listed company is mainly engaged in voice and data telecom services, and has a broadcast unit called Liberty Broadcasting Network Inc.

The lack of funds had stalled the company's expansion plans.

Moreno, the company's chair and president, said the company was severely affected by the departure of foreign partner, Deutsche Telekoms, five years ago.

Deutsche Telekom sold its Philippine interests when it decided to get out of Asia.

The company's board of directors had directed Moreno "to take the necessary measures in order to prevent the continuous losses sustained by the company," according to its disclosure yesterday regarding a board meeting last Thursday.

Among the options open to the ailing telecom company were "the sourcing of investments, restructuring of existing loans, the filing of a petition for rehabilitation and a petition for the suspension of debt payments," it said.

"We are on our way to finding a solution to our financial problems and finally recover from the exit of Deutsche Telekoms. Part of the plan is to get a new strategic partner," said Moreno in an interview.

Liberty Telecoms is talking with three possible partners that could either put in new money, guarantee a new borrowing for the company, or provide a combination of equity and loan guarantees.

Moreno said the telecom industry was capital-intensive and would require huge investments.

Ideally, a new investor would have to put in an amount "big enough to turn around" the company, said Moreno.

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INCORPORATING: AFTERMARKET EXPO '05
August 11 - 14
World Trade Center Metro Manila
SHOW HOURS:
AUGUST 11 - 13 11:30AM - 7:30PM
AUGUST 14 11:30AM - 5:00PM
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
- More than 11,000 products & equipment on display
- Over 275 booths / 5,500 sq. meters
- Moving head shootout by top brands
- Outdoor powered speaker & line array demo
- Mini-concert
- Reel Screening
- Live performances by various artists
- DJ mixing competition
- Fashion show - Fashion in the Techno World
- Special discounts & promos by world-class brand s such as Panasonic, Plus, Riso, Duplo, Toshiba, Sanyo, Pioneer, Minolta & many more
- Latest cars, AUV's, & SUV's on display
- Best dressed-up car competition
TECHNICAL SEMINAR
Seminar Schedules
August 12, 2005 (Friday)
August 13, 2005 (Saturday)
Corporate Seminar
Module 1: "Outclassing the Competition Part 2: Image Enhancement"
Module 2: "Closing Multi-Million Sales Through Impressive Presentation"
For more inquiries on these sessions, pls. contact please contact Ms. Madeliene at 724-9412 / 724-3686 or Michelle at 750-8588
1 Session Rate- Php 300.00 + vat
2 Session Rate-Php 500.00 + vat
(includes handouts, materials, workshop and certificate of attendance)
SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS, PRESENTATIONS & ACTIVITIES
August 11, 2005 (Thurs.)
12:00pm - 1:00pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
1:00pm - 1:45pm Swarovski Crystal Architecture in the Philippines
1:00pm - 2:00pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
1:00pm - 6:00pm Reel Screening
2:00pm - 2:45pm MYOB Accounting Seminar
2:00pm - 2:45pm Business Opportunity Program
2:00pm - 3:00pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
2:00pm - 3:00pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
3:00pm - 3:45pm Communicate in Color
3:00pm - 3:45pm ALTO Professional Audio Products
4:00pm - 4:45pm Opening Ceremony
5:00pm - 6:00pm Mini-concert by Joint Venture
6:00pm - 7:00pm Moving Heads Shootout / Powered-Speaker
August 12, 2005 (Fri.)
12:00pm - 1:00pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
1:00pm - 1:45pm LCD & LED Displays Importance in Making a Sale
1:00pm - 1:45pm JTS Instrument Microphones
2:00pm - 2:45pm Bio Active Diesel Enhance for Clean Air
2:00pm - 2:45pm Outclassing the Competition Part 2 Image Enhancement Program by Mr. Clarence Mata (by registration only)
3:00pm - 3:45pm Closing Multi-Million Sales Through Impressive Presentation by Mr. Meinard Peñaloca (by registration only)
3:00pm - 3:45pm The Starbill Roving Billboard System featuring Dong Feng Automotive Co.Ltd.
3:45pm - 4:30pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
4:00pm - 5:00pm DJ Mixing Exhibition
4:45pm - 5:30pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
5:00pm - 6:00pm Let's Groove Past Present & Future
6:00pm - 7:30pm Professional Sound System for Different Applications
August 13, 2005 (Sat.)
11:30pm - 12:15pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
12:15pm - 1:00pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
1:00pm - 1:45pm More Than Yellow, More Than Just Pages
1:00pm - 1:45pm AVIOM Distributed Audio Network "Digital Snake Cables & Personal Monitoring Systems"
1:00pm - 1:45pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
1:45pm - 2:15pm Moving Heads Shootout
2:15pm - 3:00pm Toshiba Vision of the Future
2:15pm - 3:00pm Product Presentation
3:00pm - 3:45pm Add Life to Your Presentation
3:00pm - 3:45pm MP Turbo presents The Ultimate Speed Fest Championship & Racing School
4:00pm - 4:45pm Fashion in the Techno World
4:45pm - 5:30pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
5:00pm - 7:30pm "Microdata 25th Jam"
6:30pm - 7:30pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
August 14, 2005 (Sun.)
11:30pm - 12:30pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
12:30pm - 1:30pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
1:00pm - 1:45pm Business Opportunity Program
1:30pm - 2:30pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
1:30pm - 2:15pm Napa Product Presentation
2:00pm - 2:45pm Production Intercom "Wherever There's A Show"
2:00pm - 5:00pm Reel Screening
2:30pm - 3:30pm Moving Heads Shoot Out
3:30pm - 4:30pm 30 Second Powered Speaker Demo
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 12, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4.1	3.9	3.9	35,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	34	33	33.5	1,947,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	52	50.5	51.5	2,926,600
China Banking Corp.	775	780	775	780	1,080
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.68	7,950,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53	53	52.5	52.5	54,900
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	612,900
Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	47	47.5	233,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	16.75	15	15	202,900
Security Bank Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	699,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	33	32	33	77,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.3	0.49	0.3	0.49	130,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	260	260	10
Manulife Financial Corp.	2800	2800	2800	2800	650
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	93,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	140	139	139	3,210
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	2000	2000	600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	13.75	14	83,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.08	6,001,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	820	810	815	15,270
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	90,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	11,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	430,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.25	7,381,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1690	1715	1680	1680	49,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	15	55,900
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25	24.5	25	789,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	1,114,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.25	3.35	5,169,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	160,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	338,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	270,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.54	0.5	0.5	1,530,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	380,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3.05	2,373,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	160,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	44,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	12,000
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68.5	69	68.5	69	77,100
San Miguel Corp. B	99.5	101	99.5	101	191,700
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	36,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	780,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	317.5	325	317.5	325	133,870
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.59	620,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	1,080,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	27,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,186,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	3,730,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	172,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	150,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	13,500
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.16	1.2	21,029,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	3,500,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.245	2,970,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	454,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	158,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	2,632,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	46.5	45.5	46	546,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	400,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	209,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.44	1.46	10,799,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	15,040,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.25	12,280,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	1,180,000
SM Investments Corp.	233	234	222	229	1,284,700
South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	1,870,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.13	420,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	730,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.98	0.98	6,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.4	1.42	1,847,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	810,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.5	14.5	13.75	14	1,102,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	10,266,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,770,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.27	0.3	35,030,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	3,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.58	18,734,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,250,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	11,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.2	4,950,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	44,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	6,934,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	0.99	0.93	0.98	870,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.94	0.99	0.94	0.95	350,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	143,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	771,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	13,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	14,380,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	3,320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	47,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	54,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.84	0.82	0.83	2,810,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.95	7,820,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	190,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	350,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	14,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	423,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	33,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.6	3.6	330,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	4,300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	470,000

DISCLOSURES

PETER Tan resigned as director of **Liberty Telecoms Holdings Inc.**

* * *

FRANCISCO Alejo III, officer of **San Miguel Corp.**, recently sold his 4,000 shares in the company.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. declared a 20-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 25 and will be paid on Sept. 20.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. bought 350,000 of its own shares at P1 each.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank declared a cash dividend of P0.02 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Sept. 10 and will be payable on Sept. 30.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. declared a regular cash dividend of P0.03 per share and a special cash dividend of P0.14 per share. These dividends are payable to stockholders of record as of Sept. 9 and will be payable on Oct. 3.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

August 12, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.801860	1.000000	55.7380
Japan	Yen	0.007315	0.009123	0.5085
United Kingdom	Pound	1.452329	1.811200	100.9527
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103219	0.128725	7.1749
Switzerland	Franc	0.643909	0.803019	44.7587
Canada	Dollar	0.668161	0.833264	46.4445
Singapore	Dollar	0.487039	0.607386	33.8545
Australia	Dollar	0.620491	0.773814	43.1308
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.127064	2.652661	147.8540
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213812	0.266645	14.8623
Brunei	Dollar	0.485564	0.605547	33.7520
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019644	0.024498	1.3655
UAE	Dirham	0.218336	0.272287	15.1767
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.247100	69.5109
Argentina	Peso	0.278666	0.347524	19.3703
Brazil	Real	0.345927	0.431406	24.0457
Denmark	Kroner	0.134045	0.167168	9.3176
India	Rupee	0.018429	0.022983	1.2810
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213773	0.266596	14.8595
Mexico	New Peso	0.075583	0.094260	5.2539
New Zealand	Dollar	0.564850	0.704424	39.2632
South Africa	Rand	0.126376	0.157604	8.7846
Korea	Won	0.000790	0.000985	0.0549
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025171	0.031391	1.7497

Peso closes at 3-wk high of 55.645:$1

OPTIMISM on VAT boosts peso.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday closed at a three-week high of 55.645:$1 on strong regional markets and fresh optimism that legal impediments to the value added tax (VAT) would be cleared very soon.

The peso yesterday traded at a narrow range, hitting an intra-day high of 55.635 and a low of 55.685 to the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System. Volume was $211.5 million.

The peso gained from Thursday's finish of 55.70 to $1.

"The markets are betting that the Supreme Court will rule in favor of the national government on the VAT soon," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

He added that the local currency was boosted by the strengthening of the Japanese yen, which in turn benefited from fresh optimism on the Japanese economy.

Other traders said the peso was also aided by thin corporate demand for dollars.

In the meantime, UBS Investment Research said the Philippines needed the expanded VAT more than ever as political jitters could jack up the government's spending in the years ahead.

"We expect the budget deficit to fall in 2005 from 2004's 3.9 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) but if the VAT law is not approved by the (Supreme) Court in its entirety, there is significant risk that the budget deficit would widen again starting 2006," UBS said in a report dated Aug. 8.

The report, written by UBS economist Christa Janjie and analyst Jody Santiago, warned: "We think the political crisis has heightened the risk of higher spending going forward."

The implementation of the VAT law was suspended by the Supreme Court last month over questions on the legality of certain provisions such as the President's discretion to hike the rate from 10 to 12 percent.

₱130-M refund already completed, says Meralco

By Abigail L. Ho

MANILA Electric Co. has given back about P130 million to customers affected by a 12-centavo per kilowatt-hour rate hike that the Supreme Court junked with finality Thursday.

Meralco vice president and refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said the entire P130 million for refund had already been credited to affected customers in the July billing cycle.

The refund covered the higher rates charged last Jan. 1-14, 2004 on almost 2 million customers.

In relation to the refund, Mabale said Meralco also had to book a P5-million loss for non collection of some over-issued discounts to clients consuming 71 to 100 kWh a month.

In an earlier interview, he said that instead of giving just a 20-percent discount to these customers, Meralco extended a 25-percent markdown on power charges.

But instead of continuing the collection of this amount from affected customers, Meralco opted to book this as a loss, he said.

Meralco on Oct. 10, 2003 filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission an application to hike its rates by 13.6 centavos per kWh.

On Nov. 27, 2003, the regulatory body gave the Lopez-led firm a provisional authority to increase its rates by only 12 centavos per kWh.

The ERC decision sparked the ire of militant groups and various individuals, leading to the filing of a petition for the nullification of the ERC decision with the High Tribunal.

On June 15, 2004, the Supreme Court sided with the petitioners, effectively junking the ERC's decision on the Meralco rate hike application.

But even before the High Tribunal could render its final decision, Meralco decided to withdraw the rate hike application as certain developments had already "overtaken" the resolution of the motions for reconsideration it had filed.

The Supreme Court last Thursday denied with finality Meralco's motions for reconsideration, although it was already irrelevant as Meralco had earlier withdrawn its petition anyway.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said Meralco should come out with a complete report of its refund.

He added that the ERC should also "learn" from this ruling and make sure that it would never issue another "hastily approved" rate hike petition again.

Lucio Tan seen matching . . .

From page B1

floor price of P43 a share—or about P15.9 billion—preferring to wait for the highest bid before deciding whether or not to match it.

Government officials considered the bidding a success even if only one bidder aside from Tan showed up and the winning bid was lower than PNB's closing price of P47.50 a share at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

"We're happy that the bidding was done in a transparent manner and with reasonable competition. It provides a template for future divestment of assets by the public sector," said PDIC president Ricardo Tan.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had mixed comments. While he welcomed the "success" of the bidding process, calling it a significant step that would help the government put its fiscal house in order, he expressed slight disappointment at the bids submitted by both Unionbank and the Tan camp. "P50 [per share] would have been a nicer price," Teves remarked.

Aside from Unionbank and Avenue Capital, among those prequalified for the bidding but did not show up were Marathon Asset Management, Newbridge Capital, HSBC Ltd., Ashmore Capital, Standard Bank of India, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Bank of America.

As of end-March, Unionbank ranked as the country's 13th biggest bank with assets of P102 billion while PNB was sixth with assets of P219 billion.

Assuming Unionbank bags the PNB stake, the national government will get P1.98 billion of the proceeds while P6.16 billion will go to PDIC and P8.84 billion to the Tan group.

PNB is seen by analysts as an ideal takeover candidate given its strength in the mass market as well as in the overseas Filipino workers remittance market.

The sale of PNB was the single biggest privatization initiative by the government since 1995 when it sold to Hong Kong's First Pacific Group the right to develop the sprawling Fort Bonifacio military camp in Taguig.

Sy hikes stake . . .

From page B1

products, National Foods Ltd., in a $1.5-billion deal in April.

The San Miguel group is expanding overseas through acquisitions after dominating its home market for beer, soft drinks, liquor, poultry, dairy, and processed food.

SM Investments has interests in retail, mall and property development, leisure, and banking.

It has earmarked P8 billion in capital expenditures this year, of which P5 billion will go to its mall expansion and P3 billion for retail and banking operations. The same amount has been set aside for 2006.

For its fiscal year ending March 2006, SM Investments expects to grow its income by 25 to 30 percent, boosted by its retail and banking businesses.

BOI sees more investments in healthcare sector

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MORE foreign companies are expected to put up healthcare and wellness projects in the country following the issuance by the government of the guidelines governing the granting of tax incentives for these ventures.

According to Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, five or six firms engaged in these businesses are expected to apply for the tax perks later this year, with the smallest investment costing P700 million.

"A number of such investors have expressed their interest. They were only waiting for the Investment Priorities Plan guidelines before firming up their decision," Hernandez said.

The 2005 IPP listed projects related to healthcare and wellness products and services as one of the 11 priority sectors qualified for full incentives, including a tax holiday of up to six years.

The guidelines for the sector lists eligible projects as those involved in hospital services, medical and dental services, other human health and wellness services—such as nursing care, rehabilitation and recuperation, and health spas.

Also covered are retirement villages and related services located either in identified medical zones or outside Metro Manila when catering mainly to foreigners and nonresidents of the country.

The rules, likewise, apply to the manufacture of drugs and medicines following the Philippine Drug Formulary of the Department of Health; supplements limited to Vitamin A, iron and iodine for use in the Food Fortification Law and herbal medicines.

The other 10 priority sectors under the 2005 IPP include agri-business; information and communications technology; electronics; motor vehicle products; energy; infrastructure; tourism; shipbuilding/shipping; jewelry, and fashion garments.

Hernandez said incoming projects took their cue from Japan's largest healthcare provider, Tokushukai Medical Corp., which is currently looking for a site to build a medical service complex worth at least $100 million.

Shares close 0.71% higher

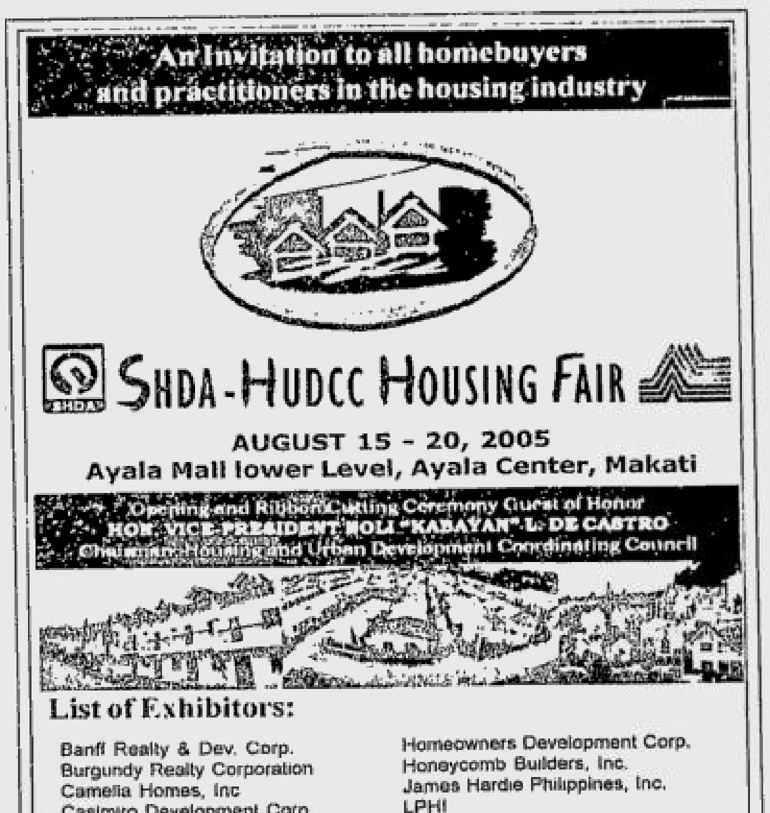
From page B1

"We could pause for some consolidation next week before re-testing a higher level," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development.

"Despite the positive sentiment prevailing this week, the market may be ripe for correction in the coming sessions," Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings said.

Ayala Corp led the gainers, ending up P12.50 to P325. Unit Bank of the Philippine Islands rose a peso to P51.50, while Ayala Land gained 10 centavos to P8.50.

AFP



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Many Filipinos diabetic and hypertensive

By Charles E. Buban

THERE are a lot of Filipinos who are both diabetic and hypertensive these days. National nutrition surveys conducted in 2003 by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute-Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST) revealed that seven out of 100 Filipino adults aged 20 and above are suffering from impaired glucose level and diabetes.

The same survey showed the prevalence of hypertension was 22 out of 100 Filipino adults.

"This is alarming considering that the combination of these two cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors has important public health implications. Uncontrolled hypertension can lead to stroke, heart failure and kidney failure," warned endocrinologist Dr. Joselynna Quimpo.

Quimpo said a patient with hypertension and diabetes needs to have a significantly lower blood pressure goal (135/80 mm Hg) than that recommended for a patient with hypertension alone (140/90 mm Hg).

"The risk of coronary heart disease or peripheral arterial disease is three times higher for diabetics than for nondiabetics while the risk for arterial hypertension is also elevated almost threefold," Quimpo said.

Dramatic results

Quimpo's advice stemmed from results of several studies showing that efforts to lower high blood pressure in patients with Type 2 diabetes produce dramatic results.

In one study, near optimal control of hypertension (144/82 mm Hg) led to 44 percent less diabetes-related strokes, 37 percent less cases of small blood vessel damage due to diabetes (particularly diabetic retinopathy), and 32 percent less diabetes-related deaths," she said.

In another study, she said CVD deaths were reduced by 76 percent in hypertensive patients who had Type 2 diabetes and 13 percent in patients with hypertension but no diabetes.

Lifestyle change

"There are many ways to control your blood pressure. Foremost among these is changing the way you live. You've heard before that your lifestyle has a big impact on your health and it's no different with those suffering from high blood pressure," she said.

Quimpo said that if a diabetic could do something about excess weight, lack of exercise, unhealthy diet, stress and consuming tobacco products, he might be able to control his blood pressure to a level that would not cause coronary heart disease, kidney failure, blindness, limb amputations and premature death.

"If lifestyle changes alone do not control your high blood pressure, your doctor may tell you to take drugs that control blood pressure," said Quimpo.

Unlike people with mild hypertension, most diabetics require more than one class of antihypertensive drugs to control their blood pressure, according to Quimpo.

"They have to take these drugs several times a day, which is why one of the challenges for these patients is compliance," said Quimpo.

Once-daily drugs

To meet this challenge, a number of drug makers have combined their drugs into one taken only once a day.

One of these drugs just approved for the Philippine market is Triapin (manufactured by Sanofi-Adventis), which is a combination of two active ingredients: ramipril and felodipine.

Ramipril belongs to a group of medicines called ACE inhibitors, which block the action of a chemical in the body called angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) that causes blood vessels to tighten and narrow, and causes the kidneys to produce less urine," explained Quimpo.

She said that as ramipril stops the production of angiotensin, these actions of ACE are reversed and as a result, more urine is produced by the kidneys, resulting in less fluid in the blood vessels. The blood vessels also widen.

"The overall effect of this is a drop in blood pressure and a decrease in the workload of the heart," said Quimpo.

Felodipine belongs to a group of medicines called calcium channel blockers, which act on the heart and blood vessels.

This drug slows down the movement of calcium through cells, which has two results: a decrease in the heartbeat rate and a widening of the blood vessels. The overall effect is a reduction in blood pressure, she said.

Quimpo said the combination of these two drugs may be particularly useful in the treatment of high blood pressure among diabetics.

Snoring kids likely to be hyperactive later

WASHINGTON—Young children who snore could be at greater risk of becoming hyperactive later than those who sleep quietly, US researchers reported.

The study, published in the journal Sleep, strengthens earlier conclusions linking sleep disorders and hyperactivity and also seems to confirm that it is the snoring that comes first.

In 2002, a University of Michigan team reported that among 229 children studied, those who snored regularly were twice as likely to later be hyperactive or have attention issues than non-snorers. For boys under the age of 8, the rate was four times higher.

Now, after four years of follow-up, the team has confirmed its finding and found even more cases of hyperactivity. They found that young children who snored were four times as likely to become hyperactive four years later.

Dr. Ronald Chervin and colleagues said their findings held even after they took into account which children had already been identified as hyperactive during the first study.

The boys who were under the age of 8 at the beginning of the study and who had the worst sleep-breathing problems were nine times more likely to have developed new hyperactivity four years later than boys of the same age who hadn't had such sleep problems, the researchers said.

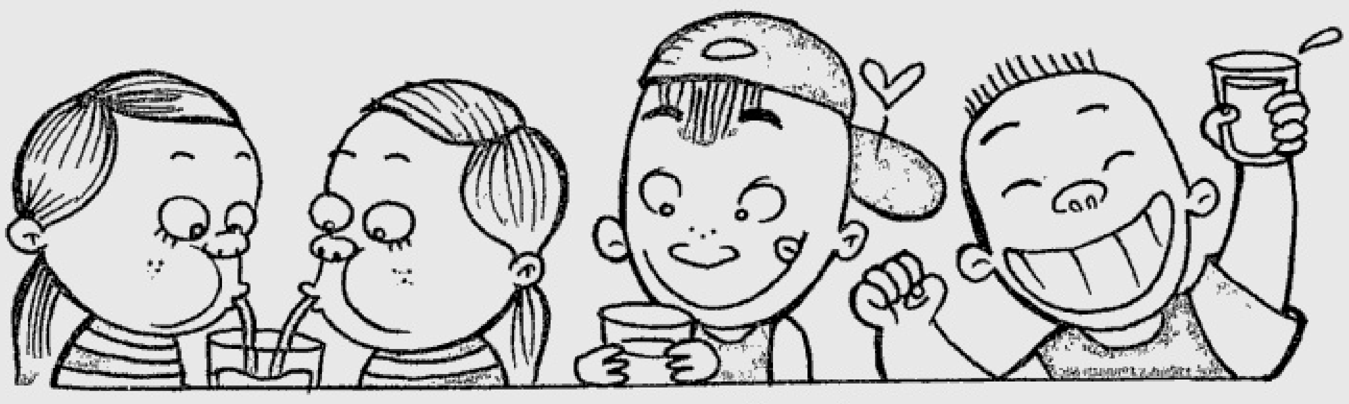
"To our knowledge, this new study is the first long-term, prospective research to show that regular snoring and other clues to the possible presence of sleep apnea predict future development of inattention and hyperactivity," Chervin said in a statement.

"These findings strengthen the hypothesis that untreated sleep-breathing problems in childhood can contribute to the development of hyperactivity."

Chervin noted that a study like this one, starting with a group and following them over time, reveals more than one in which people are asked to recall events from the past.

"Sleep problems in both children and adults are often undiagnosed, even though they can have a major impact on health, behavior and quality of life," he said.

Reuters



White Revolution

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ONE hundred years ago, Filipino women patriots founded the Associacion Feminista de Filipinas, and one of their first projects was the so-called Gotá de Leche (Drop of Milk).

In 1906, the women ensured that children in their towns did not go hungry; they fed them milk from live animals, such as goats, cows and carabaos. Ironically, a century later, more than six million Filipino children are malnourished, with little access to milk. The middle and upper classes do not fare well either: it has been estimated that for the past years, we have paid (and continue to pay) approximately P50 billion for imported milk annually.

Our government has helped alleviate the situation by creating the National Dairy Authority (NDA) under Republic Act 7884 and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) under Republic Act 7307. In collaboration with the Departments of Education, Health, and Social Welfare and Development, these two institutions help form cooperatives for milk production, improve breeds of cows and carabaos, and take care of feeding programs for ill-fed children.

Private sector involvement

As in many worthy endeavors, the private sector is rallying to the cause. The indefatigable former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani is chair of the Dairy Development Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (DDFPI). Among its successful projects is the establishment of the Dairy Loan Fund and the Dairy Enterprise Support Program for Emerging Dairy Zones. But DDFPI has more ambitious goals.

According to Shahani, "Envisioning an integrated dairy industry, DDFPI recently launched an advocacy project dubbed 'White Revolution: Philippines.' The project aims to connect the demand and supply for local milk. The strategy is to create greater demand through the milk-feeding program, encourage its consumption over imported milk and to help raise increased funds for investment in the Philippine dairy industry."

Success in India

Shahani believes the program can bear fruit, since another country has successfully demonstrated its potential.

She states, "That milk can significantly increase farm income through cooperatives has been demonstrated by India, the originator of the White Revolution. Previously a net importer of milk, India is now the world's biggest producer of milk and has become a major exporter of it. India is also the source of the Murrah buffalo whose high milk output has made a major difference in rural dairy. Inspired by the Indian experience, DDFPI's White Revolution: Philippines is a noble and commercially viable revolution launched from below by the poor for them to have a better life through self-reliance."

The Foundation appeals to the private sector to provide funds to help the local dairy industry, in the process increasing rural income and rescuing our children from malnutrition.

P1,000=free milk for 120 days

According to the National Milk Feeding Program of the NDA, a donation of P1,000 can provide one malnourished child with a free glass of milk for 120 days. PCC estimates that a donation of P35,000 to its Carabao Fund can allow farmers to purchase a purebred or crossbred carabao that can give five to 10 liters of milk a day.

Shahani is also chair of the steering committee of the GO-NGO Network of the Centennial of the Philippines Feminist Movement, which has adopted White Revolution: Philippines as one of its flagship projects. Today, a century after Filipino women ensured that their children would be fed well, let us not let them down. Let us bestow on our children the gift of health.

For more information, contact DDFPI at 723-5136 or e-mail ddfpi@pacific.net.ph (ask for Weng Bautista or Agnes Viola). You can also call Cynthia Torres at the office of Senator Shahani at 895-9503.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

No sweets for the kits

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN A RESTAURANT, do you open a menu and select a meal based on the desserts available? Do you remember vacations based on the snacks you enjoyed in the area?

Sugar is often associated with rewards and indulgences, and many childhood memories may be associated with a lemon drop or a slice of cake that was offered for good behavior.

Although dogs and people like sweet treats, cats have no interest in eating sugar. Why? In the recently launched online journal PLoS Genetics, molecular geneticist Xia Li of the Monell Chemical Sense Center in Philadelphia joined forces with veterinarians, dentists and biochemists in Pennsylvania and England to answer that question.

Halfway around the world, another lab was working on another aspect of taste, specifically, how taste receptors transmit information to the brain. A paper from researchers Makoto Sugita and Yoshiki Shiba from Hiroshima University in Japan appears in the July 29 issue of the journal Science and documents their newfound understanding of how the brain recognizes bitter and sweet tastes.

Fifth taste

People usually describe how something tastes by using any of the following four adjectives: sweet, sour, salty and bitter.

A fifth and more recent addition to the group is umami, which is considered a savory taste associated with the flavor of MSG.

Although the taste buds recognize all of these flavors, Sugita and Shiba remind the reader that there are only three modalities or qualities of taste that are linked to G proteins: sweet, bitter, and certain receptors of umami.

The bitter taste receptors are linked to a family of G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) called the T2Rs. The umami and sweet receptors on the other hand are linked to a small group of GPCRs composed of T1R1, T1R2 and T1R3. A sweet receptor is the result of a T1R2/T1R3 collusion, while the umami receptor is formed by the T1R1/T1R3 proteins.

By planting a transsynaptic tracer into transgenic mice, Sugita and Shiba were able to follow the pathways from receptor to neuron and found that the neuronal clusters for sweet and bitter tastes are separated from each other, which could help explain why the two tastes are distinctively recognized, and why certain flavors can evoke specific emotional responses.

Given the distinct G-protein pathways described by Sugita and Shiba, it is perhaps not too surprising that when Li et al. looked at why cats don't like sweets, they focused specifically on the T1R2/T1R3 sweetness receptor and the genes which encode these proteins in felines: Tas1r2 and Tas1r3.

"Felines are unable to detect sweet-tasting compounds like sugars and high intensity sweeteners because their sweet taste receptor is defective," Li said in a Monell press release. "An obvious place to look, therefore, is at the genes coding for the sweet-taste receptor."

Cats, tiger, cheetah

Researchers tested their theory by taking cheek swabs of six domestic cats. Li et al. were lucky enough to be able to see if their theory held up for other species of cats as they were also able to obtain genomic DNA from a tiger in New York and a cheetah at the San Diego Zoo.

By comparing the DNA sequences of the Tas1r2 and Tas1r3 genes from the various cats against their orthologs in humans, mice, rats and dogs, Li et al. determined that Tas1r2 gene is actually a pseudogene, meaning it is nonfunctional and isn't expressed.

The psuedogene's presence means that the T1R2 protein is not expressed in cats, and because this protein is half of the sweet-taste receptor, felines can't enjoy sugar.

Li et al. went further, hypothesizing that the cat ancestor that passed on his disinterest in sweet flavors via the pseudogene of Tas1r2 must have done so after the Feliformia group, which includes cats and hyenas, had split off from Caniformia, to which wolves and bears belong, after these carnivorous groups were established.

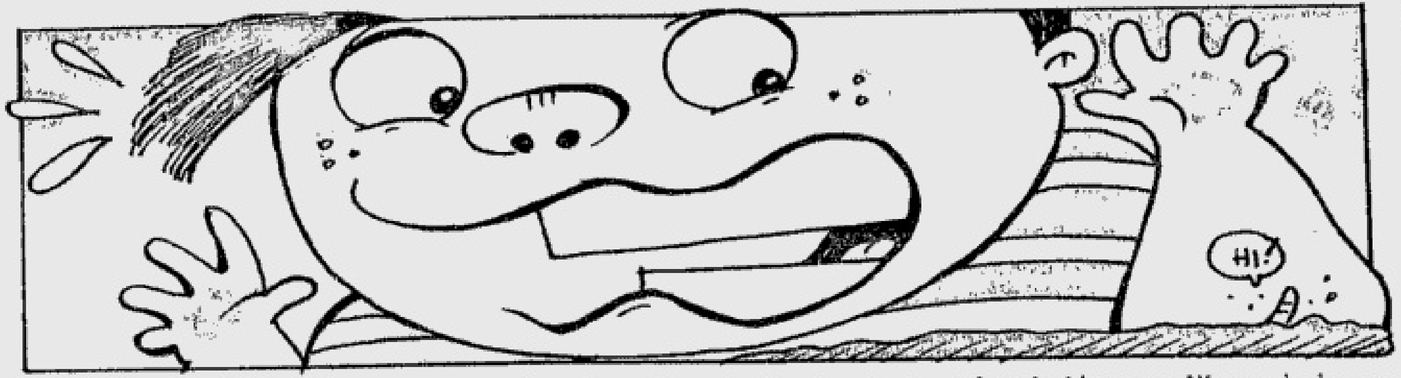
The studies conducted by Sugita and Shiba, as well as by Li et al., emphasize the importance of understanding the sense of taste. The emotional effect of the food, as well as the ability to stimulate those reactions just by being able to detect the flavors, affects not only the meal itself, but an entire species' diet and way of life in general.

If man didn't have two functional sweet-taste genes, would sugar and other words signifying sweetness even be terms of endearment? Why not celebrate the difference between man and cat? Go ahead, indulge in a slice of chocolate cake with ice cream on the side.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Need for kid deworming program stressed

By Tessa R. Salazar



THE MOST common worms you will see living inside Filipino children nowadays are soil-transmitted helminths: round worms, whip worms and hook worms.

These worms beat infected children to the nutrients necessary for physical and mental growth, according to Dr. Vicente Belizario, parasitologist and professor at the University of the Philippines College of Public Health.

He said that all feeding and food fortification efforts by the government and private entities would be useless unless the children are first dewormed.

Belizario said the country sorely lacked a national program for deworming.

Integrated program

The Department of Health's Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis Control Program plans to integrate its deworming program with the Maternal and Child Health's Garantisadong Pambata program to be administered twice a year.

The Garantisadong Pambata is a biannual week-long delivery of a package of health services. This includes vitamin A, iron supplementation and free immunization.

Dr. Yvonne Lumampao of the DOH said the target age for deworming are those between 1 and 14 years. She said this age group is roughly 30 percent of the country's population.

"The Unicef and the World Health Organization are both willing to donate deworming medicines as soon as the government presents a strategic plan for parasitic infections," she said.

From 1999 up to the present, the DOH deworming program was administered to more than 10 million children.

Belizario said periodic mass treatments done two to three times a year should be conducted to address the situation. He also so strongly encouraged the practices of hand washing, wearing footwear, proper disposal of human waste and cleanliness of the environment.

He lamented the lack of toilets in the Philippines, particularly in the countryside. This, situation, he said, adds greatly to the risk of exposing children to parasitic infections.

67% infection rate

In 2001, parasitologists from the UP-CPH examined 1,800 Grade 1 public school pupils and found an overall infection rate of 67 percent.

"That's about two in three school kids infected with worms. We even had many children harboring two to three types of worms," Belizario said.

The study, commissioned by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, was done in Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Quezon City, Cavite, Cebu City and Davao City.

Last year, the United Nations Children's Fund commissioned a nationwide survey of 6,800 children (from 12 months to 71 months) and found an infection rate of 66 percent.

Sustained program

Belizario said treating these children of parasitic worms would entail sustained efforts. He said deworming was not a one-time "magic bullet."

"We need to deliver [deworming] drugs to all elementary school children, at least in the public schools, at least three times a year."

The drug would comprise 90-95 percent of the total cost of a deworming program.

A cheap deworming drug costs about P10, he said.

Lumampao said a commercially available deworming drug costs about P20, while a parallel imported deworming tablet would cost P2.60. Deworming tablets donated by Unicef cost less than P2 each.

Belizario said technology was making mass treatments feasible. He cited as an example chewable deworming tablets like Antiox that even comes in chocolate flavor.

Another drug is Albenzadole.

He said both drugs attack the three types of worms quite well, and both come in chewable candy flavored preparations.

He noted: "There's the technology to get rid of worms. The question is why we aren't addressing them seriously?"

"If infected school kids are not treated now, in the future you will see adults who have not fully developed their potential," Belizario said.

10 ways to beat dengue fever

By Willie T. Ong, MD, MPH
Contributor

THE RAINY season is here again. And so are those killer mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus. In a year, thousands of Filipinos get sick from dengue, and many have died as a result. After experiencing high fever, complications include severe bleeding, shock and death.

The danger is real. Barangay chair Dr. Ma. Encarnacion Legaspi of Makati had conducted a unique study. During summertime, she distributed three cans to each household and asked them to fill it with water and leave it for a week. After which, she collected all the cans and had them analyzed for deadly mosquito eggs. Lo and behold, around 30-40 percent of all households were positive, which means that those killer mosquitoes are flying all around Manila.

But no need to panic, because we have 10 ways to beat dengue.

1. Clean up your backyard.

Mosquitoes love to stay in dark and damp areas. So if your garage is littered with boxes and assorted garbage, clean them up or throw them away. Don't let them become mosquito havens. Schedule a weekend cleanup day.

2. Empty containers with stagnant water.

The dengue-carrying mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. This means that flower pots, garbage cans, aquariums, unused swimming pools, tires and other muds and piles are potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. So after the rains fill them with water, throw the water away. Next time, keep these containers closed and upside down. Flower vase water should also be replaced weekly.

3. Check your surroundings for stagnant water.

Some ornamental plant leaves have this "whorl" or cup-like shape that can hold water. Beautiful to behold but deadly in design. Turn them over and throw the water away. Upturned coconut shells are also notorious for holding water. Nonmoving rivers, especially in squatter areas, are full of mosquito eggs.

4. Close your doors and windows.

Some people open their doors in the morning for a whiff of fresh air. They also believe that mosquitoes would leave the house and go into the sunlight. But my advice is to keep your doors shut at all times. If it's too stuffy, then place a screen door that keeps the flies and mosquitoes outside.

5. Spray insecticide regularly.

To rid your house of mosquitoes, flies and cockroaches, spray insecticides every few days. Make sure you spray those dark corners, crevices and cabinets. You'll be amazed at the number of vermin you'll find dead in the morning. Just make sure that household members are not exposed to the insecticide as they are not the target. Just spray selected rooms when people are not there.

6. Wear pants, pajamas, long sleeves, and socks.

Mosquitoes are attracted to our breath as we exhale so they know how to reach us even in the dark. And I guess they love bare, plump skin, especially the kids who don't shoo them away and let them suck as much blood as they want. So better ask your school authorities to let the kids wear pants and rubbers shoes. They'll love it.

7. Place Off Lotion or use mosquito nets.

If your kids are going hiking, camping or off to school, you can apply insect-repellants like Off Lotion. Kids like to play outdoors and are prime targets of these mosquitoes. You can wipe it on selected areas of the clothing, like collars, sleeves and just some on the skin. Avoid applying lotion on eyes, mouth or hands.

8. Kill those mosquitoes.

When it comes to dengue, it's either kill or be killed. Instruct everyone to kill as many mosquitoes and flies as they can. Once you've got them trapped in your bathroom, show no mercy. Don't be bothered by your conscience since mosquitoes belong to the forest, not in our homes.

9. Involve the whole community.

The best way to defeat dengue is if the whole barangay is aware of the threat. Ask the barangay to schedule a cleanup day. The danger is in those empty houses and lots, which are excellent breeding places for mosquitoes. Get your barangay into the act. Become a volunteer to monitor and clean up your surroundings.

10. Spread the word: Dengue fever is here.

You'll never know where dengue will strike next so better be prepared. Inform your friends too.

Follow these 10 simple rules and you may not only save your loved one's life but also your own. Fight dengue, now.

Did you skip breakfast today?

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

A MIDDLE-AGED housewife came to see me for marked obesity with complications on the cardiovascular system. She swore she has been cutting down on her calories. She skips breakfast and skimps on lunch. But she later confessed that toward the latter part of the day, her hunger pangs are just too much and she lets go of her dietary control and eats to her heart's content. She thinks she's doing the right thing, eating basically one heavy meal a day.

Doctors and nutritionists usually give this dietary advice: Eat a king's breakfast, a rich man's lunch and a pauper's dinner. However, despite repeated reminders, many just can't seem to follow this healthy tip and do the opposite: Light or no breakfast at all, quick lunch; and heavy supper.

We frequently dismiss breakfast as the least important of the three daily meals. It might be the last thing on our morning to-do list. The morning rush or a desire to cut on calories are the usual reasons that make skipping breakfast among the top practices of an unhealthy lifestyle.

Why is eating a good breakfast essential?

When we wake up in the morning, we've just gone through eight to 12 hours of fasting. Our body's supply of glucose, an important source of energy, is already low. Our body needs to have an appropriate blood sugar level to provide enough energy for our usual daily activities, both physical and mental. Otherwise, our mood and overall performance can be affected, many times without our realizing it. We feel irritable, moody and our thinking becomes slow.

Jump-starting the day

A full, healthy breakfast refuels our body and jump-starts our day. If our blood sugar level is adequate, we feel good and function better and this suppresses our tendency to overeat in our next meal. Our sweet tooth is satisfied. In fact, eating a hearty breakfast is recommended for those who are trying to lose weight.

"Breakfast not only starts our day right, but also lays the foundation for lifelong health benefits," says Jennifer K. Nelson, a registered dietitian at the Mayo Clinic in the United States. She adds that people who eat a healthy breakfast are more likely to:

- Consume more vitamins and minerals and less fat and cholesterol
- Have more strength and endurance
- Have better concentration and productivity throughout the morning
- Control their weight
- Have lower cholesterol, which reduces the risk of heart disease.

Benefits on kids

It's not only adults who should make a healthy breakfast a habit. It's probably more important for children and adolescents, which is well worth the 20 to 30 minutes that they have to wake up earlier so they can find time for it.

According to the American Dietetic Association, children who eat breakfast are more likely to have better concentration, problem-solving skills and eye-hand coordination. They may also be more alert, creative and less likely to miss days of school.

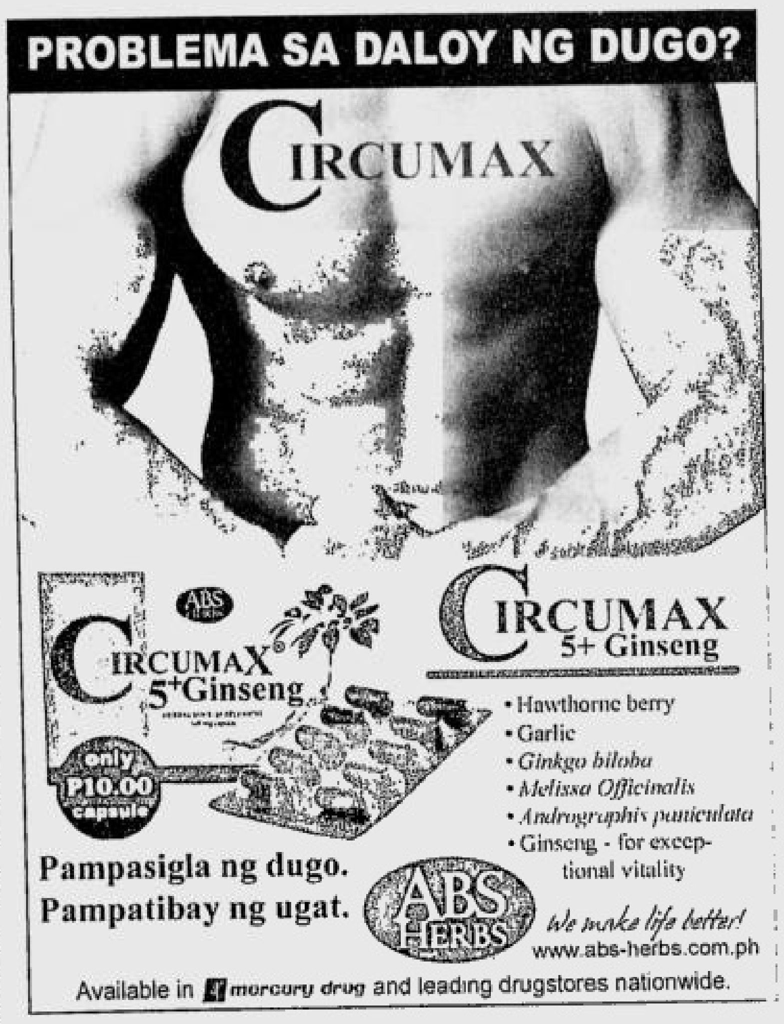
A study by the University of Iowa showed that children and adults who ate breakfast were more productive during the morning and even had faster reaction times.

What we eat for breakfast is also important. It determines how we'll feel most of the day. Do you just usually have sweet roll, juice, donuts and coffee?

Eating only carbohydrate (sugar) sources (rice, donuts, sweet rolls, juice) provide calories but the sugar they provide is quickly used up. Too much carbohydrates forces the body to produce too much insulin from the pancreas. This also causes the liver and muscles to withdraw sugar and store it as starch or fat. Too much sugar defeats the purpose for which it is intended, that is, to produce energy. Carbohydrate sources alone for breakfast are inadequate.

We need to eat some protein and fat along with it, which will be digested more slowly, keeping our energy level longer. Whole grains, low-fat protein or dairy sources are good additional sources of energy. So a healthy breakfast should provide complex carbohydrates, protein and a small amount of fat—a combination that delays hunger symptoms for hours.

We make more than a hundred small and big decisions daily. Let finding time for having a full healthy breakfast be the first important decision that we make every day.



New therapy for stroke prevention

INGELHEIM, Germany—The use of the fixed-dose combination of modified release dipyridamole and acetylsalicylic (aspirin) is now recommended as first-line treatment for patients who have suffered a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) for a period of two years from the most recent event.

New guidelines on the treatment were issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in England and Wales.

The NICE committee considered evidence from the European Stroke Prevention Study-2 (ESPS-2). The trial found that in patients with stroke or TIA, the combination of 25 mg acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) and 200 mg modified release (MR) dipyridamole twice daily showed a significantly lower incidence of second strokes than aspirin alone.

Twice as effective

The combination therapy was found twice as effective as either agent prescribed alone. Over 6,600 patients were included in the randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study.

"The new NICE guidelines confirm the body of clinical evidence and the high therapeutic value of the fixed-dose combination of modified release dipyridamole and acetylsalicylic acid," said Prof. Hans-Christoph Diener, head of neurology, University, Duisburg-Essen, Germany.

"Healthcare professionals now also have clear guidance on the cost-effective prescription of a secondary stroke prevention therapy. This is a good step toward meeting the unmet need in secondary stroke and may have a beneficial effect on the burden that stroke presents to the healthcare system," Diener said.

Preventive therapy

As part of the prevention of occlusive vascular events, the NICE guidance said that for all stroke and TIA patients:

"The combination of (MR) dipyridamole and aspirin is recommended for people who have had an ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack for a period of two years from the most recent event. Thereafter, or if (MR) dipyridamole is not tolerated, preventive therapy should revert to standard care (including long-term treatment with low-dose aspirin).

"Clopidogrel alone (with its licensed indications) is recommended for people who are intolerant of low-dose aspirin and either have experienced an occlusive vascular event or have symptomatic peripheral arterial disease."

Following a first stroke, TIA patients are more likely to suffer a subsequent stroke than other vascular events due to degenerative processes in the wall of blood vessels supplying the brain. Other treatments used to reduce the risk of recurrent stroke work by inhibiting platelet aggregation and thrombus formation.

The newly published NICE guideline does not apply to those who have had, or are at risk of, a stroke associated with atrial fibrillation, or who need treatment to prevent events after coronary revascularization or carotid artery procedures.

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8670490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURES HOUSEHOLD ITEMS CLOTHES SHOES STEREO ETC 5 KENNEDY ST. NORTH GREENHILS, SAN JUAN 7222328 AUG 13 & 14 8-5 PM

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HOG DEALERS, Fatteners For Sale - Bulacan, Batangas, Bataan 3633080 Tess

WANTED
PHARMACIST
Call Linda
7812651

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE DR. LEONARDO STA. CRUZ WHO DIED INTESTATE ON AUGUST 24, 1985 AT EAST AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY AND AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 381, PAGE 77, BOOK NO. XIX, SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC DOMINGO LOSA, NOTARY PUBLIC FOR PARAÑAQUE CITY, PHILIPPINES. (PDI-AUG. 6, 13, & 20, 2005)

AUCTION SALE

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan.All Unredeemed Pledges of FEB.2005 will be Auctioned on AUG.24, 8:30am.
Lanuza &Sons Autioneer.
(PDI-AUG 13,2005)

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, Roosevelt Ave., Kalipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of FEB. &MAR 2005 will be auctioned on AUG. 24, 2005, 2:30 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI AUG 13. 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given thatr the estate of the late ELISA G. TORRES has been extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs as per Doc. No. 8¾,13,20271, Page 55, Book VIII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Porfirio T. Castillo Jr. province of Rizal.
(PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

Ruben Enríquez Atacador

who joined his Creator on August 4, 2005

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

THE MISSIONARY
BENEDICTINE SISTERS
St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila

announce with grateful hearts:

In the stillness of a new day,
on August 10, 2005

SISTER EMELINDA MANUNTAG, OSB

Age 47

lovingly surrendered herself
into the arms of our Heavenly Father.

The Sisters and their mission partners, her parents, **Rufino** and **Emiliana**, brothers, **Donardo**, **Eduardo**, **Nicasio** and sisters, **Priscilla**, **Margarita**, **Ofelia**, will remember Sister **Emelinda** for her life of endless giving and selfless sharing with all.

Her remains lie in state at St. Scholastica's Chapel, 2560 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. Interment will take place at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Scholastica's Chapel on Sunday, August 14, 2005.

Trust in the Lord forever."
Isaiah 26:4

Liza Fe Ruby "Treasure" B. Gallardo

(June 28, 1968 – August 13, 2004)

Treasure, we remember you today in a very special way. On your first death anniversary, your Mom, sisters and brothers, in-laws, nieces and nephews, relatives as well as your friends are offering holy masses for you at the following churches:

Divine Mercy Parish, *Laoag City*	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish, *Laoag City*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, *Laoag City*	6:00 AM
Sto. Rosario Parish, *Pasig City*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, *Laoag City*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, *Philamlife Vill., Las Piñas City*	6:30 AM
St. Nicholas Church, *Laurel, Maryland, USA*	8:30 AM
Greenbelt Chapel *(Sto. Niño De Paz Community), Makati*	12:15 PM
St. Thomas Aquinas, *Charlottesville, Virginia, USA*	5:15 PM
St. Matthew's Church, *Durham, North Carolina, USA*	6:00 PM
Our Lady Of Pillar Parish, *Almanza, Las Piñas City*	6:00 PM
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, *Teachers' Vill., Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Mary Mother of the Church, *BF Resort Vill., Las Piñas City*	6:30 PM
Immaculate Conception Church, *Durham, North Carolina, USA*	7:00 PM
St. William's Cathedral, *Laoag City*	7:00 PM

The loving memories you left behind will keep YOU alive in our hearts forever!

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556, 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Barnardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City;
Tel 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-6838/30;
Fax No 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor. Dinalupihan St.,
Manuguit, Manila
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Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795, 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels 749-3679, 781-1772
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& MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2026 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tels 493-4458, 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tel. 302-5447
• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels 942-6044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St.,
San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS &
CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tañong, Marikina City
Tels 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels 646-1725; 646-1730
• PARAÑAQUE
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
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Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center,
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RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9882, (0915) 712-1220
• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cemantina St., Pasay City, Tels 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City,
Tels 831-3797, 844-7646, 843-1601; 845-4636
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Tels 641-7909, 641-1735
• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ELYSIUM GARDENS
277 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City,
Tels. 723-76-51, 723-0494, 723-6335
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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
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286 Quezon Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 372-5084, 410-9266/67
• TAGUIG-PATEROS
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M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels 642-3010, 633-3602
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Tels 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
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79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
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Tels (047) 2370643 • 7911766
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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2875
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G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite,
Tels (046) 471-3388; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
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CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue
City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2643, 346-2601
• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Tel 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5880145
• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy Dita, Sta Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142, Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels (049) 562-1668, 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963
• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247
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Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels 649-5849; 942-4460
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Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave.,
Angono, Rizal
Tels 651-1711, 651-0737
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Marcos Hway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels. 645-1855
• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1088, (047) 222-4512;
(047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

Our beloved

Lydia Collantes Villegas

was called home by our Lord
on August 10, 2005 at the age of 72.

She will be deeply missed by her loving husband Francisco, children Obet and Susan, Amon and Roma (+) Einnie, Raul and Bea, Riza and Duane grandchildren Ryan, Rami, Ina, Alex, Andie and Yana siblings Bill, Luring (+), Gloria, Belen, Pacita, Nonoy, Peping (+)

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 14, at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

We are urgently in need of:

- **CASINO MANAGER**
  - 25 years management experience in associated industry
  - Must have five (5) years extensive experience as Casino Manager
  - Must have extensive trainings in planning, administration, logistics, and man-management
  - Male, at least 40 to 55 years of age
  - Must be physically and mentally fit, fluent in English
- **SHIFT MANAGER**
  - Male 30 to 45 years of age; physically & mentally fit
  - 10 years experience in casino business
  - At least 5 years experience as pit manager position
  - At least 3 years experience as shift manager position
  - With full knowledge in table games operation concerning hold percentage, production levels, scheduling and administration, and marketing strategy
  - Full knowledge of table games financial report
  - Must be with mastery of all types of table games
  - Fluent in English
- **SURVEILLANCE MANAGER**
  - Minimum of 10 years experience as surveillance manager
  - Experience in other South East Asian casino as surveillance manager or assistant manager
  - Knowledge in other South East Asia languages is an advantage
  - Thorough knowledge of all casino games in South East Asia
  - Male & must be 40 to 45 years of age; fluent in English

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored photo together with other credentials to:

Personnel Officer
Subic Diamond Entertainment Corporation
408 Waterfront Road,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2200

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Tokens for the Year 2005 NFA Service Awardees

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P997,282.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2005 service awardees, as follows:*

LOT No.	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	60 pieces wristwatches, Model A	50,820.00
2	403 pieces wristwatches, Model B	487,630.00
3	316 pieces wristwatches, Model C	458,832.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2005 NFA service awardees.* Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on September 15, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *September 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.	*(632) 712-0454*
E-mail Address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	*(632) 712-0454*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Aug. 13 & 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES OF MORE OR LESS 186,000 BAGS NFA RICE FROM TABACO PORT TO THE DIFFERENT DISPORTS IN REGION 8

The National Food Authority, Regional Office, Legazpi City invites all qualified Vessel Owners with a minimum load capacity of 17,000 bags rice with standard weight of 50 kilograms to apply for eligibility to bid for the provisions of freight services of more or less 186,000 bags NFA rice from Tabaco Port to the different disports in Region 8:

Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (in bags of 50 kg)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
Tabaco Port to:		
Tacloban Port	51,000	P 1,483,590.00
Maasin Port	17,000	622,710.00
Naval Port	16,000	461,120.00
Catbalogan Port	17,000	484,330.00
Calbayog Port	17,000	451,520.00
Borongan Port	34,000	989,060.00
Guiuan Port	34,000	1,116,220.00
TOTAL	186,000	

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Aug 8-16, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug 10-18, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
3. Pre-Bid Conference	August 17, 2005	10:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids/ Eligibility Check & Opening of Bids	Aug 30, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferrable/non-refundable registration fee in the amount of P4,000.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid is first advertised.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers: (052) 480-7933/480-7015/480-7085/820-008 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 6 & 13, 2005)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of FDC Laboratory Equipment (17 Items)

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY,* through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P3,347,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of FDC Laboratory Equipment (17 items)*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Refrigerated Circulator	1	165,000.00
2	Elisa Reader and Accessories	1	500,000.00
3	Electronic Dessiccator with Built-in Hygrometer	1	250,000.00
4	Dessiccators for Chemistry Section	1	315,000.00
5	Air Oven	1	270,000.00
6	Dispensette	4	100,000.00
7	Chlorine Test Kits	1	35,000.00
8	Hepa Filters for Clean Bench	13	260,000.00
9	Thermometer Reader with Penetration Probes	3	60,000.00
10	Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder or Meter with Penetration Probes	1 2	35,000.00 60,000.00
11	Metrological Weight Set	1	80,000.00
12	Standard Weights, Class F1	1	100,000.00
13	Glass Dessiccator for Shelf-Life Testing Section	2	92,000.00
14	Glass Dessiccator for Package Testing Section	1	180,000.00
15	Glass Dessiccator Cabinet	1	65,000.00
16	Ice Maker for Ice Cubes	1	430,000.00
17	Ice Maker for Flake Ice	1	350,000.00
	TOTAL		3,347,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of FDC Laboratory Equipment.* Delivery is required within 120 days from receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *August 31, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg . E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on September 14, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *September 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.	*(632) 712-0454*
E-mail Address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	*(632) 712-0454*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Aug. 13 & 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Penny	Unknown	Hermocella H. Anez SS#06-1038018-2	January 12, 1996
2)	Leonor C. Arcaya	Espiritu St., Mangagoy, Bislig, Surigao del Sur	Alfredo Arcaya SS#09-1122908-0	January 30, 2005
3)	Enarciso Arculno Bonding Arculno	Unknown	Maximo R. Arculno SS#03-9357343-5	September 27, 2004
4)	Delesia Magullado Arsenia Chan	Salcedo St., Daet, Camarines Norte 41 Medina Cpd., Talon, Las Pinas	Ernesto Chan SS#03-3691456-9	June 15, 2005
5)	Rosita Besaco	San Pascual, Obando, Bulacan	Leonardo R. Condino SS#03-6282819-5	January 5, 2005
6)	Ma. Leny Zamora	Unknown	Ruel F. Cornelio SS#03-5184575-2	August 22, 2004
7)	Rowena Corpuz	Tondo, Manila	Roberto Corpuz SS#03-3553734-5	April 9, 2005
8)	Rowena Ocon	11965 Bo. Mabuhay Zigzag, Carmona, Cavite	Joseph Cortez	February 28, 2005 SS#33-6369858-3
9)	Maricar A. De Vera	Unknown	Romeo V. De Vera SS#01-0430327-6	March 14, 2005
10)	Corazon Ponce-Dela Peña	Unknown	Chito P. Dela Pena SS#03-4138478-6	August 7, 2003
11)	Maria Amore	Ugong, Valenzuela	Roberto V. Dela Pena, Jr. SS#33-3107027-2	December 30, 2002
12)	Salvacion Mojalt Estomo	Unknown	Enrique Estomo SS#03-3539206-9	March 21, 2005
13)	Teodoro Feneletre Sr.	Unknown	Teodoro C. Feneletre, Jr. SS#02-1886457-5	June 10, 2005
14)	Josephine Molina Frias	1432-A Pipin St., Sampaloc, Manila	Victor DM Frias SS#03-6387029-4	July 22, 2004
15)	Teresita Esper	Unknown	Jorge R. Layoso SS#03-4321234-8	January 24, 2005
16)	Imelda Lee, Mary Ann & Steward Children	304 Zabala St., Tondo, Manila	Manuel A. Lee SS#03-6734910-3 33-0130744-1	October 5, 2004
17)	Hilaria Nocelo Yolanda Mancia	1400 B. Dizon St., Sta. Cruz, Manila 21 Kawayan Road, North Forbes, Makati, Metro Manila	Jose Mancia SS#03-0162971-1	April 26, 2005
18)	Imee Menor	Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte	Eddie P. Menor SS#04-0323167-0	October 30, 2004
19)	Feliciano Orzal, Jr.	Purok #6, Lumbocan, Butuan City	Feliciano B. Orzal SS#03-4996645-2	June 27, 2005
20)	Leonida R. Quilla	Unknown	Manuel Quilla SS#03-4891117-8	June 25, 2005
21)	Andrea Melendrez Ramos	Unknown	Vicente T. Ramos SS#03-0029434-1	January 24, 2005
22)	Socorro Ricardo	Unknown	Andres Ricacho SS#03-0166471-8	December 26, 2001
23)	Vergenia Clemencia	379 Dalisay St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Enrique Rosgal SS#03-0854582-7	June 30, 2005
24)	Nimfa, Michael, Mardon & Melissa	Borbon, Cebu	Judito C. Ruiz SS#06-1201737-1	March 30, 2005
25)	Virginia De La Cruz	Malawag, Lupon, Davao Oriental	Victory Segovia SS#09-0242501-3	November 5, 2004
26)	Marcela Compado	Unknown	Delfin E. Siona SS#03-1117156-3	November 22, 2002
27)	Escolastica Bondal	Tejero, Gen. Trias, Cavite	Rodolfo Tagle SS#03-0757294-3	April 30, 2005
28)	Eugenia Taladua	Unknown	Teodoro Taladua SS#03-0989807-8	March 7, 2005
29)	Jhosephine Q. Velasco	San Jose, Sta. Rita, Pampanga	Alfredo Z. Velasco SS#03-9657700-1	May 10, 2005
30)	Rey Zabala	Bayanihan Road, ICC Manfort Garpa Heights, Bajada, Davao City	Maribell P. Zabala SS#09-2095065-4	September 19, 2003

– Nothing follows –

(PDI - Aug. 13, 2005)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Operation of a Passenger Ferry Service along Pasig River

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), hereinafter referred to as the **AGENCIES**, intend to bid out the operation of a passenger ferry service along the Pasig River through a Bid/Selection Process to determine the lowest fare proposal.

The AGENCIES now invite sealed Proposals from eligible Proponents including Local Government Units (LGUs) for the **OPERATION OF A PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE ALONG PASIG RIVER.**

The Selection Process will be conducted using a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria and a ranking system, and is open to Filipino citizens/duly licensed sole proprietorships, partnerships or corporations of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines, and to Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority.

Only Proposals from Proponents who pass the Eligibility Screening will be opened. After the evaluation of proposals, the Proponent with the lowest fare proposal shall be declared as the Highest Ranked Proponent (HRP). The HRP shall be issued a Notice of Selection and endorsed to MARINA for their issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

Interested parties may obtain further information or purchase a complete set of the Bid/Selection Documents at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2nd Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Old Balara Quezon City from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** from **August 15, 2005** to **August 30, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP10,300.00)**. The Bid/Selection Documents shall be received personally by the prospective proponent or his authorized representative.

There will be a pre-bid/selection conference open to all proponents on **September 02, 2005 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Manila City Conference Room, 2nd Floor, MMDA Building, EDSA corner Orense Streets, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Proposals and eligibility documents must be addressed and delivered to the DOTC-MMDA-PRRC Pasig River Ferry Service Project, Manila City Conference Room, 2nd Floor, MMDA Building, EDSA corner Orense Streets, Guadalupe, Makati City on **September 28, 2005, from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.** All Proposals must be accompanied by a Proposal Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee or Manager's Check payable to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP500,000.00).** Proposals submitted after **10:00 A.M. of September 28, 2005** shall not be accepted.

Opening of Proposals shall start immediately thereafter at the Manila City Conference Room, 2nd Floor, MMDA Building, EDSA corner Orense Streets, Guadalupe, Makati City. Proposals will be opened in the presence of the Proponents' representatives, and will continue until the HRP is determined and announced.

The AGENCIES reserve the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, and to annul the Bid/Selection Process at any time prior to issuance of Notice of Selection and the endorsement to MARINA, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Proponent or Proponents.

(Sgd.) **AGUSTIN R. BENGZON**
Undersecretary, DOTC
Chairperson, Pasig River Ferry Service Project

(PDI - Aug. 13, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
SPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell Scrap Coinage Metal, Armored Truck Vehicle, various serviceable/unserviceable Equipment and Spare Parts, Carbonless Paper, and dismantled Building Materials/Facilities. Sealed bids must be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 a.m. on **August 23, 2005** at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

For the Scrap Coinage Metal, there will be a pre-bid at 10:00 a.m. on **August 17, 2005** at the Executive Lounge, 3rd Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may inspect the said items during regular working days from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the BSP Security Plant Complex before **August 23, 2005.**

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer Ms. Rouena L. Rosal, Room 405, 4th Floor Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. No. 920-2003.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO B. ASIDDAO**
Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that PERLAMINDA L RAMIRO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from PURIFICACION to PERLAMINDA in the Certificate of Live Birth of PURIFICACION DE LEON who was born on September 10, 1939 in MANILA and whose parents are ROMAN DE LEON and DOMINGA ANCIANO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than August 8, 2005.

(Sgd.) **NORMA S. DIPUTADO**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Aug 6 & 13, 2005)

EYE REFRACTION!

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911-27-13

Rebap conducts CRESR

THE REAL Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines Inc (Rebap) – Caloocan City Chapter will conduct a Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review (CRESR) on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, at the Rotary Center, Roces Ave, cor. Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City (all Saturdays) from 1 to 6 p.m. This seminar will prepare the participants for the Brokers Licensure Exam to be held on Nov. 27. For more information, please call the following numbers: 438-2966 and look for Jane or Rene and at 373-2280 to 81 and look for Lenie of Vicky. Seminar director is CRB Delby S. Pero. Call now to avail of their seminar promo.

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

2004 Toyota Corolla Altis / XPK-264
2003 Toyota Prado, Wagon / XGK-848

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co. Inc.
Dick Cariño, Tel. No. 878-54-57

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

A haven for any home builder

THE ORTIGAS Home Depot located along Dona Julia Vargas Avenue near corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City is the biggest home depot center in the country and was patterned after home centers in the United States. It is considered to be a haven for any home builder. Simply think of anything that you would need for your home, Ortigas Home Depot is the perfect place to look for it.

In the Philippines, the upsurge of the real estate and construction industry over the last decade has fueled many aggressive business enterprises to bring the concept of home depot centers to the country.

The general public's wide acceptance of these so-called 'one-stop' shops, centers or showrooms was inevitable because of the changing habits and lifestyles of a future 'homeowner'. Today, all of these hassles are answered by the emergence of home depot centers in the metropolis.

Built on a sprawling 25,000 sq. meter lot, the Ortigas Home Depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated structure that is the perfect place to shop for all your home building and furnishing needs - architectural hardware, artificial stone products, appliances/ generators/houseware; blinds and curtains, fabrics and upholstery; board and ceiling products, ceramic tiles/vinyl tiles; doors and door systems; furniture - office, residential and commercial; glass and aluminum products; kitchen and bedroom cabinet systems/accessories; landscaping; laminated and natural wood flooring systems; lightings and electrical fixtures; lumber and wood products; marble, granite and other natural stones; roofing and insulation; paint and paint sundries; plumbing fixtures and fittings, pumps; pets and pet sundries; plastic laminates; pre-cast systems; security systems; and other retail services.

The Ortigas Home Depot has the largest furniture area with over 6,000 sq. meters of retail floor space plus an appliance center with a complete line of home appliances and appliance service center.

The Ortigas Home Depot is owned and operated by CW Marketing and Development Corp, a joint venture between Cebu Oversea Hardware Co Inc and West Point Industrial Sales Co Inc.

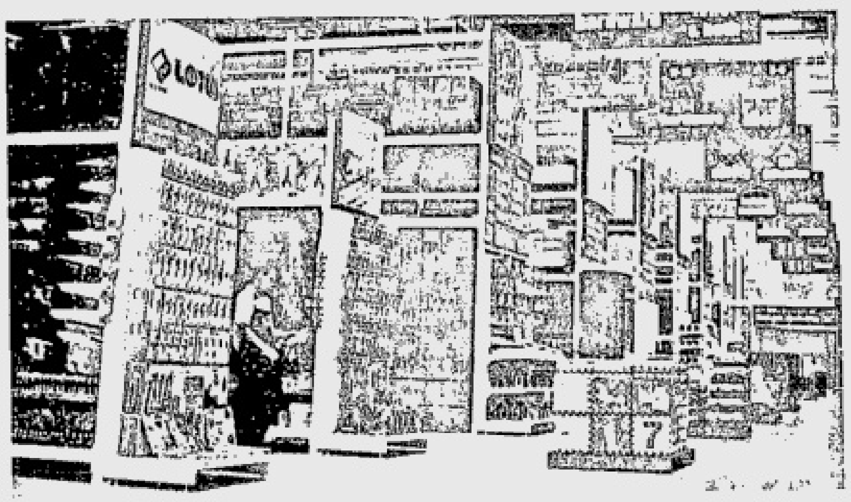
With over 50 years experience in hardware and construction requirements, this is the second home depot project of Cebu Oversea Hardware Co. in Metro Manila after establishing the Cebu Home Builders Depot in Cebu City. The company is also behind the successful launching last year of Living 'n Style Home Finishing Center located along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

West Point Industrial Sales Co Inc has a 10-year impressive record in importation and wholesale of industrial and construction materials with superior, high quality product lines.

Adjacent to the Ortigas Home Depot is the soon to open Ortigas Auto Depot, Ortigas Computer Depot, the Seaside "Paluto" Market together with some other restaurants and bars. A guarded parking area for over 800 automotive vehicles is also available to its clients. The Ortigas Home Depot is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The CW Group is launching its second home depot called The Westgate Alabang Home Depot on September 2005. It is built on a 12,000 square meter lot inside the Westgate corridor of Filinvest Alabang, along the Alabang-Zapote Road.

Ortigas Home Depot also launched their Home Price Guarantee Program wherein all branded products inside the Home Builders Superstore are guaranteed the lowest prices. Ortigas Home Depot will pay the price difference for any branded items purchased at a higher price or the customer gets a refund. This ensures that Ortigas Home Depot customers will not only get quality service but the best prices as well.



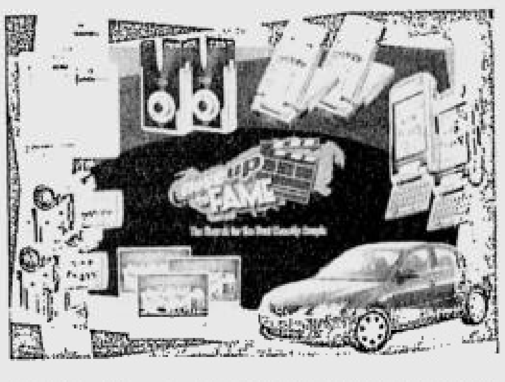
SIA OPENS DOOR FOR NEW MARKET

Singapore Airlines (SIA) recently flew in top travel agents from Dhaka to experience world-renowned Filipino hospitality and Manila's popular tourist attractions. The group, consisting mostly of managing directors and proprietors of Bangladesh's established travel agencies, will promote the Philippines as a premiere tourism destination. Shown enjoying the festivities with the visiting agents are Rita Dy of SIA Manila (standing fourth from left) with Kok Ming Cheang, SIA GM for Bangladesh (seated fourth from left) and his sales manager Yameen Kabir (standing second from left); and Fina Joven, president of Annset Holidays, who handled the land arrangements of the group (standing fifth from left).

FEDERAL HARDWARE IS MOST OUTSTANDING HARDWARE

Federal Hardware, the one stop hardware and builders center was awarded as the 'Most Outstanding Hardware'. The recognition was bestowed by the Philippine Marketing Awards Institute, Sales and Marketing Magazine and the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship during the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards night held July 7 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay City. Federal Hardware Builder's Center has 17 stores with its flagship at 2250 Don Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City. Shown during the awarding ceremony are Dr. Felix Lao Jr, PhD, the awards committee chair (left) handing over the award to Federal Hardware operator Ceramic Plaza Inc's AVP for operations Charles Martin Go (second from right) and store operations manager Myriam Enaje (second from left). Co presentor was professor Jose Jesus Roces (right), president of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation.

Vote for your fave CloseUp to Fame finalist and win lots of cool prizes



THE FINALISTS of CloseUp to Fame, the newest and biggest reality model search on TV, are getting closer to CloseUp stardom with each exciting elimination round. And with every episode, viewers can also get a chance to win cool prizes just by voting for their favorite contestants. One CloseUp pack can win you a brand-new Mazda 3 or other big prizes.

Simply buy any size of your favorite CloseUp variant and tune in to CloseUp to Fame every Saturday, 4:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN. Each purchase has a corresponding number of text votes: 9 or 10 mL sachet = 1 vote, 25 mL tube = 2 votes, 50 mL tube = 3 votes, 100 mL tube = 4 votes, and 150 mL tube = 5 votes. Text Close Up <your name>, <CloseUp sticker code>, <contestant's number> to 2256. If you win, an authorized representative of Unilever will call you on your mobile phone to tell you how to claim your prize.

There are 10 preliminary draws to be held weekly and one grand draw, with a brand-new Mazda 3 as the top prize. 20 lucky text voters have already won Buffalo sunglasses in the July 9 draw, 20 got Nike gift certificates in the July 16 draw, 10 received Rustan's gift certificates in the July 23 draw, and 10 got iPod Shuffles on July 30. Lots of great prizes are still in store: 10 Nokia 6260 phones on Aug. 6, 10 Apple iPods on Aug. 13, 5 Canon Ixus i5 digital cameras on August 20, 5 Canon ZR311 digital cameras on Aug. 27, 5 Sony Ericsson P910i phones on Sept. 3, and 5 Compaq laptops on Sept. 10. The grand draw winner, who will take home a brand-new Mazda 3, will be announced on the show's season ender.

Watch CloseUp to Fame: the Search for the Next CloseUp Couple, every Saturday, 4:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN, and vote for the next CloseUp couple. Your text vote could win you great prizes.

PIOLO FOR SAN MIG COFFEE

San Mig Coffee, the instant 3-in-1 coffee mixes of San Miguel Corp, has tapped movie heartthrob Piolo Pascual as its endorser. Pascual, an avowed coffee drinker, will appear in both TV and print advertisements which will feature the three unique blends of San Mig Coffee: original, strong, and mild. It is the first and the only coffee mix brand with three different mixes to suit every taste and every mood. Together with Pascual during the contract signing were (from left) Vincent Dela Cruz, San Mig Coffee brand manager and Debbie Namalata, San Miguel Super Cofeemix general manager. San Mig Coffee is a product of the joint venture between San Miguel Pure Foods Company Inc, and Singaporean partner Super Coffeemix Manufacturing Ltd.

HONDA OFFICERS TEAM UP WITH THE NATIONAL RACING ASSOCIATION

Honda Philippines Inc and The National Racing Association teamed up for a racing event to be held at different racing circuits in the country. The race is open to the first 200 Honda rider participants on a first-come first-served basis. The first race was conducted last Aug. 6 at the Carmona Racing Circuit. The tentative race schedule of the event is as follows: Sept. 3 to 4 - Off-road, The Fort, Taguig; Sept. 24 to 25 - Batangas Racing Circuit; Oct. 22 - Off-road, Cebu; Nov. 19 to 20 - Subic Circuit; Dec. 17 to 18 - Off-road, Davao; and Feb. 25 to 26 - Off-road, The Fort, Taguig. On Feb. 11 and 12, all winners of the race will be gathered at the Batangas Racing Circuit for the National Race Day. Please visit www.hondaph.com for racing updates. Shown are Jake Swann (3rd from right) of The National Racing Association shaking hands with Yasuhiro Oyama, president and general manager of Honda. The organizers of Honda One Make Race (from left): Adrelino C. Villena Sr, public relations and safety riding manager; Rene M. Gener, vice president, human resources management department; Masanori Kito, assistant to the president; Kazuhiko Ikezoe, vice president, sales and marketing; and Elmer R. Oane, national sales manager.

Bits Clips

Globe IDD CelebRATE extended

NEED to get in touch with loved ones in the US, Canada, Hong Kong, or China? Longing to call your friends in Malaysia or Singapore? Globe's lowest IDD rate ever is extended until Aug. 29, and now covers more countries: Thailand and South Korea. For IDD calls to any of these countries, G-Plan subscribers get 50 percent off the regular IDD rate after the first 4 minutes. For only 20 US cents per minute, you can keep in touch and talk longer with those who matter to you most. IDD Rate guide: First 4 minutes $0.40 per minute; over 4 minutes $0.20 per minute. Simply follow the regular IDD dialing procedure: (+)(country code) (area code) (phone number). No special registration is required to avail of the promo. For other destinations, Globe still offers its reliable IDD service at a flat rate of 40 US cents per minute anytime of the day. To activate your IDD, call Globe's 24-hour hotline at (02) 730 1000 or 211 (toll free) from your Globe Handyphone.

Call for '05 Shell art entries

ATTENTION, young artists. The 2005 Shell National Students Art Competition is ongoing, accepting entries in the watercolor, oil/acrylic, sculpture and digital fine arts categories. The eagerly anticipated annual event, which began in 1951, supports the development of student artists throughout the Philippines. Metro Manila-based college students can submit their works at the Shell Art House at 698 Aurora Boulevard, New Manila, Quezon City on Sept. 1, 2 and 3. Provincial entries will be accepted on Aug. 17, 18 and 19, in local Shell offices, depots or installations; Gallery Orange in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental; Museo Iloilo on Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City; CAP Art Center on Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City; or Genluna Gallery in Davao City. This year's presentors are Epson Phils and Air 21, with Canson and SM Megamall as sponsors, Shell Helix, Shell-Citibank Mastercard, Shell Card Fleet Plus, Shellane, and Shell Better Mileage Gasolines as patrons. Those who wish to join may download the entry forms at www.shell.com.

PhilCAT's annual confab

THE PHILIPPINE Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT), in partnership with the Philippine Pediatric Society will hold its 12th Annual Convention on Aug. 17 to 18 at the Century Park Hotel. The convention has lined up an extensive and comprehensive meeting with some plenary sessions highlighting updates in the Adult and Pediatric TB Consensus, the WHO global and DOH local status report on TB Control Association between Tobacco and TB, and diagnostic options for smear negative cases.

Sapina gets affirmation

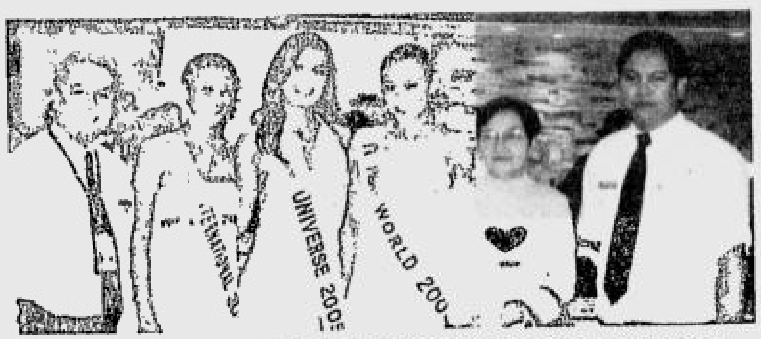
A RED carpet welcome was rolled by the Ilagenos as the organization of Sapina or Samahang Pangkalusugan ng Ilagenong Nagkakaisa, a health organization, was affirmed at Sta. Victoria, Ilagan, Isabela last June 17. This occasion was participated by more than 200 Ilagenos coming from the different sectors like heath workers, farmers, labor groups, the youth, women's sector, and politics. The delegates decided to elect their officers to lead and strengthen the organized group. The election was very much participated by everyone in the group. The purpose of this organization is to help eradicate the spread of malaria in this town. A demonstration and an exhibit of herbal oil extracted from the neem tree and other medicinal plants, bottled by the members themselves, was presented. In addition, they discussed the health situation of municipality of Ilagan which is the basis and very reason why the Sapina was organized.

NIPPON LIFE MDRTS GOES TO NEW ORLEANS

A bounty of enlivening experience and resources to polish further their technical knowledge, sales and client service are just some of the things Nippon Life Philippines' (NLP) eight Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Qualifiers brought home after recently attending the annual MDRT meeting in New Orleans, USA. Photo shows (from left) Jaydee Ong, Geny Sia Fangre, Elizabeth Tiu, Nenita Alano, Rosa To Uy, Bella Co, Pacita Tan and Edison Gatioan (seated front).

CONVENTION OF DIRECT SELLERS

The Direct Selling Association of the Philippines hosts Direct Selling Convention on Aug. 25 and 26, at the SGV Hall of the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati City. Carrying the theme: 'Where To: The Future of Direct Selling in the Philippines', the event is expected to unearth new trends in the direct selling industry. For inquiries, you may contact the DSAP Secretariat Office at 864-2673. In photo are (standing from left): Raymund Padilla, logistics/session chair; Ella Del Rosario, DSAP secretariat coordinator; Duday Gaston, over-all chair/finance chair; Suzanne Comagon, sponsorship/exhibit chair; Ricky Sy, director-in-charge, 2005 Direct Selling Convention. Seated (from left) are: Vina Casao, administrative chair, and Mylene Sazon, program/supplement chair.



PIZZA HUT OPENS AT GATEWAY'S FOOD EXPRESS

Pizza Hut recently opened its newest outlet at the Food Express, crème de la crème of fastfood courts, located at Level 3 of Gateway Mall in Araneta Center. Pizza Hut at Food Express is the 123rd Philippine outlet of the World's No. 1 pizza chain. Shown in photo are (from left) Antonio Mardo, senior VP for operations of Araneta Center; Bb. Pilipinas International 2005 Precious Quigaman; Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2005 Glona Cabrera, Bb. Pilipinas World 2005 Carlene Aguilar Norma and Alvin Guinto, restaurant general manager. They are joined by Norma Tating (2nd from the left), Pizza Hut Food Express' first customer.

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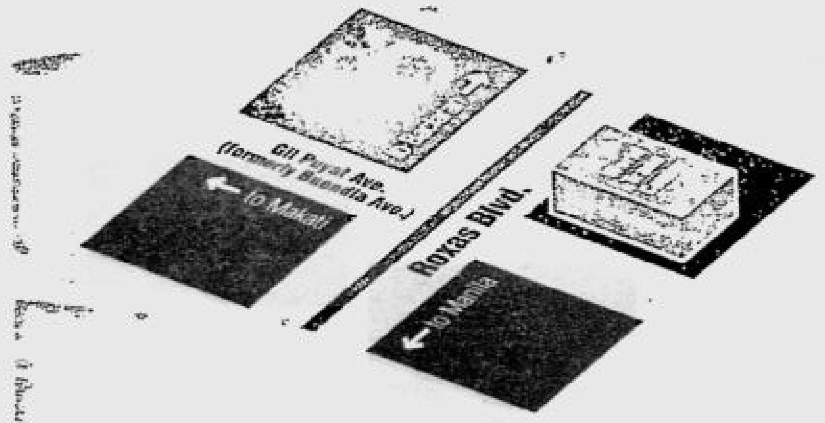
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Roxas Blvd.
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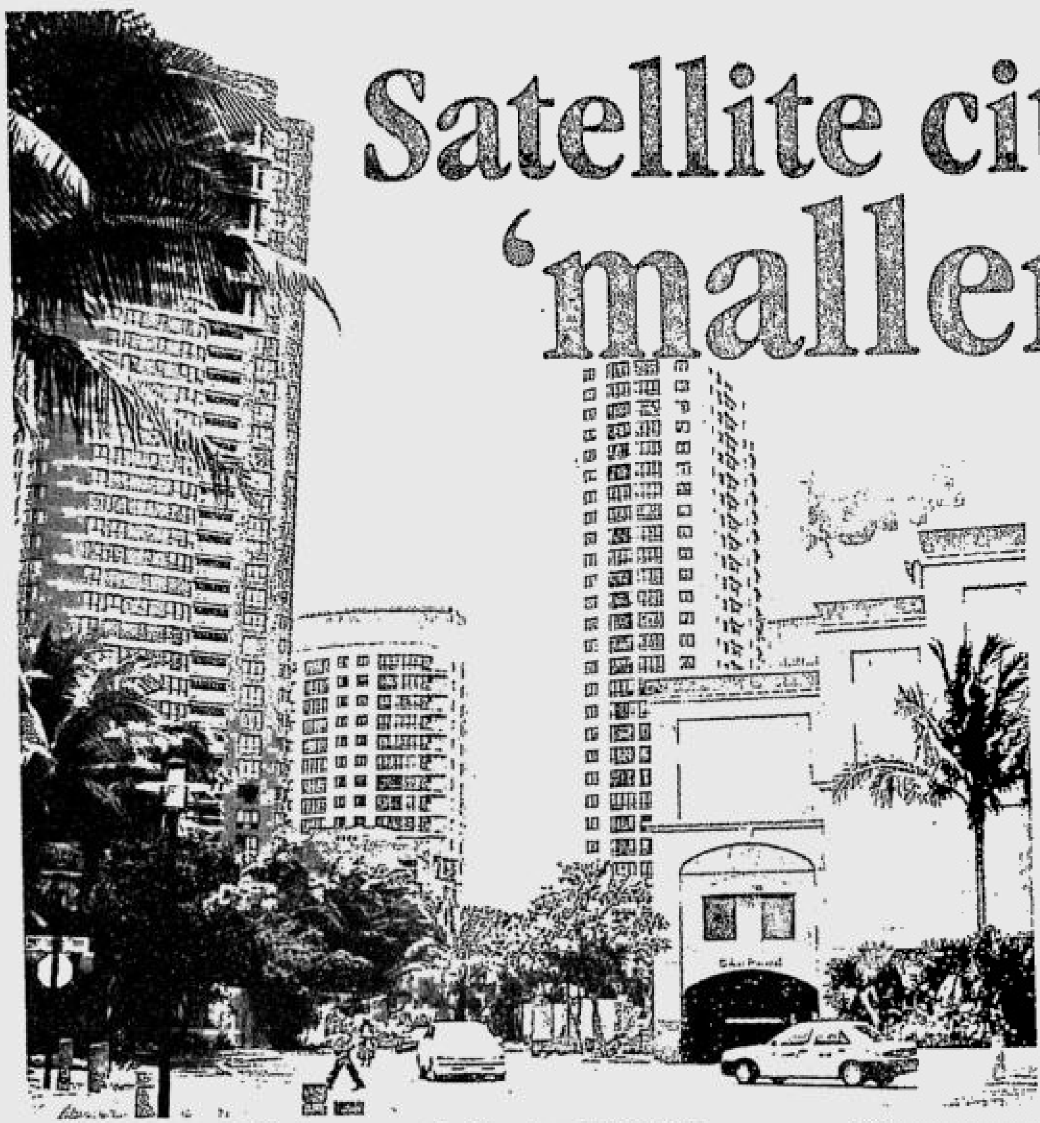
TOYOTA

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Satellite cities urge tenants, 'mallers' to stay healthy



ROCKWELL provided lush greens on the islands and sidewalks. PHOTO:CHARLES BUBAN

By Tessa R. Salazar

CAN commercial sprawls espouse the healthy lifestyle amid busy living among their tenants and patrons?

Two "satellite cities" in Metro Manila are attempting just that. And the result, in a manner of speaking, is proving to be a healthy business.

Eastwood City, a 16-hectare self-contained community in Libis, Quezon City, keeps up with its theme "Green City" in three-fold ways: eating right, keeping fit and going organic.

Eating right

Eleven out of the 30 participating restaurants in its Green City campaign are offering healthy food options such as vegetarian menus and organic dishes. Participating restaurants and establishments, before they become part of the campaign, have to pass stringent criteria to ensure that they conform to the theme.

Eastwood City also has ready dietitians to check and measure the calories, fats and nutrients of its restaurants' dishes. Kevin Tan, Eastwood City's director for commercial services, said Eastwood has actively pushed these ideas to its tenants.

Encouraging strolls

Eastwood has designed its property to encourage strolls. The pedestrian-friendly concept in the al fresco area—an outdoor mall concept—motivates people to walk with its network of walkways linking one building to the next.

Plans have included adding outdoor areas in Citywalk 2 for tai chi and other outdoor exercises. A central park that includes a lagoon is also being constructed.

The greenery-laden central plaza was created to promote exercise such as aerobics and tai chi.

Eastwood has nine residential towers and five office buildings. Three more towers will be finished by next year.

Rockwell's 'replication'

The 15.5-hectare Rockwell in Makati promotes human self-mobility—walking and jogging—using a technique called "replication."

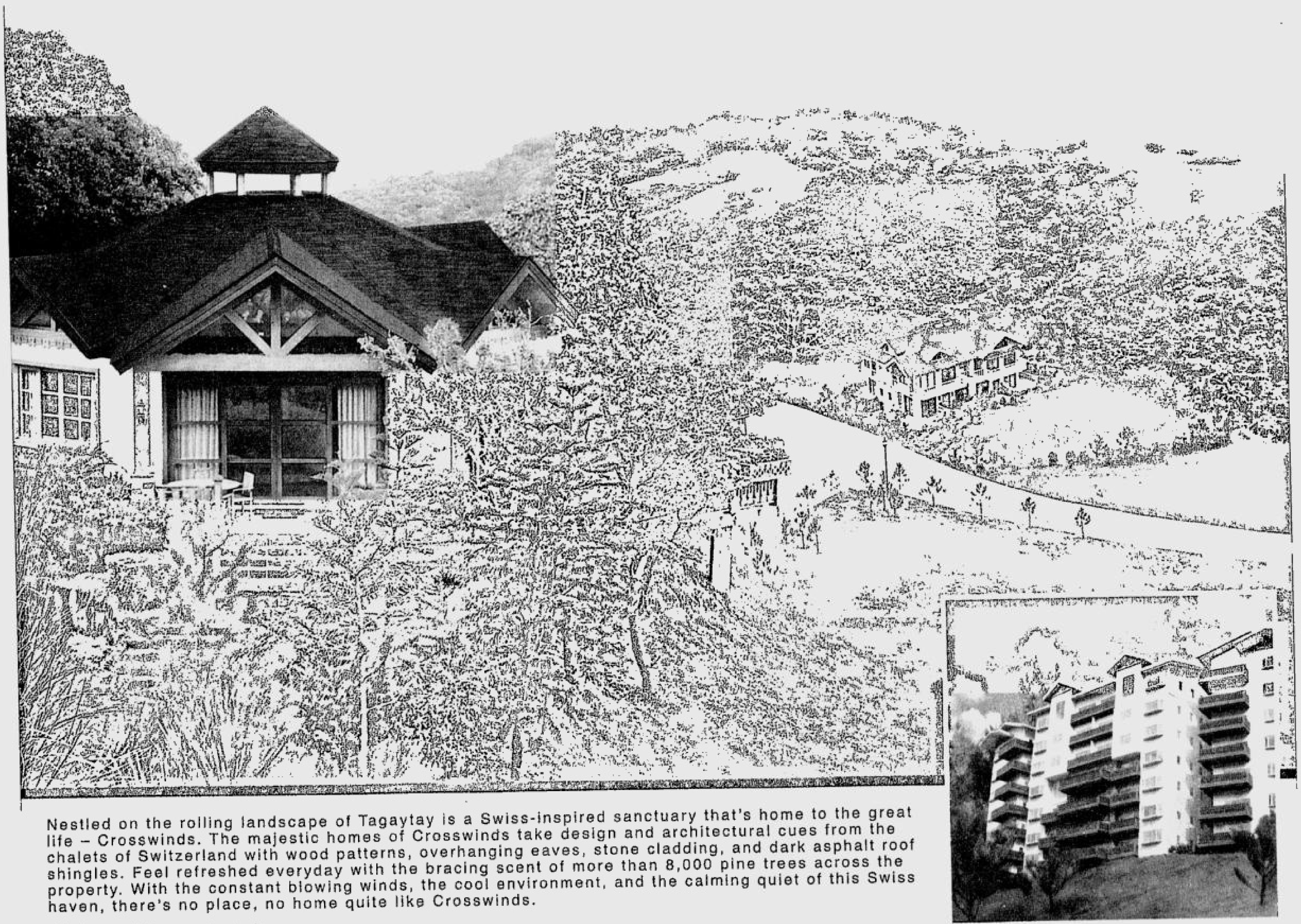
Essentially, replication means the road network aboveground is replicated below the ground to allow smooth flow of traffic and provide wide, tree-shaded pedestrian-friendly walkways, bridgeways and tunnels. This road network connects residential towers and the mall and basement parking networks.

'Soft approach'

Rockwell, which uses the "soft ap-

SATELLITE/ B2-2

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay:
A Swiss Sanctuary



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Nestled on the rolling landscape of Tagaytay is a Swiss-inspired sanctuary that's home to the great life – Crosswinds. The majestic homes of Crosswinds take design and architectural cues from the chalets of Switzerland with wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding, and dark asphalt roof shingles. Feel refreshed everyday with the bracing scent of more than 8,000 pine trees across the property. With the constant blowing winds, the cool environment, and the calming quiet of this Swiss haven, there's no place, no home quite like Crosswinds.

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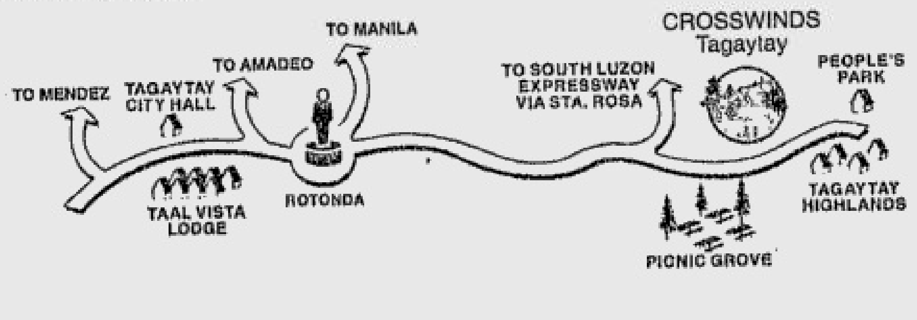

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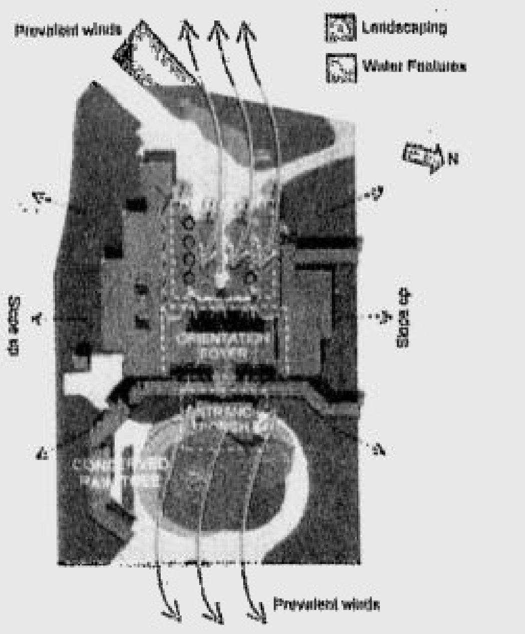
The greenest, most energy-efficient buildings in Asean

SINGAPORE'S Botanic Garden Visitor Centre is the first winner in this year's tropical building category where landscaping is a central theme in the design of the center to reduce heat load.



THE WIND flow in Singapore is from the northeast and southwest. This natural air stream passes through the building bringing the cooling effects of landscaping and water indoors.

(Last of three parts)

ASEAN countries share the same hot and very humid climate despite their many cultural, religious and social differences. Homes and buildings in the region confront similar environmental conditions ranging from extremely hot summers to damp and rainy seasons. The building industry works around the parameters set by the climate.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

The annual Asean Energy Awards ending in 2009 poses a challenge to developers and building owners to apply green building principles, especially energy efficiency and conservation. The competition summons us to join the worldwide call to effect more and more harmony between nature and the built environment.

Purpose of competition

The Asean Energy Awards aims to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation.

This recognition program for energy-efficient buildings encourages others to replicate and promote energy management programs in the building sector.

The first two parts of this article discussed the new and existing building category and the retrofitted building category.

Tropical building category

Included here are buildings with a minimum gross floor area of 500 square meters excluding car park. Air-conditioned areas must be less than 50 percent of total gross floor area. It must emphasize the effective use of passive design. Religious buildings are excluded. The building must not be more than 15 years old.

The building types included are offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals due to their predictable hours of operation.

Some features of this year's winners:

- **Singapore Botanic Garden Visitor Centre**

The Visitor Centre, located in a gently rolling valley, was built with minimal disruption to the existing landscape and topography. From inception it was decided that landscaping be central to the experience of the center. Of the total site area, about 58 percent is dedicated to landscaping and greenery.

The greening of the site was done with a formal arrangement of a series of palm trees, making up a transition space between the Visitor Centre and the garden proper. Freeform landscaping sweeps around the building and softens the impact of hard surfaces such as driveways and parking areas. Potted plants are generously distributed throughout the building's interior. Vertical planting grows on façades by latching onto lattice screens and walls.

Low-lying fountains contribute to thermal comfort by tempering the ambient air through the action of evaporative cooling.

Wind flow in Singapore which is primarily from the northeast and southwest, is kept unobstructed. The air stream passes through the building bringing the cooling effects of landscaping and water indoors.

Much of the building relies on natural ventilation and daylighting supplemented by electric fans and energy-efficient lighting.

The Visitor Centre is an excellent example of a tropical building that utilizes passive design concepts to create a healthy and energy-efficient building.

- **Popa Mountain Resort, Myanmar**

The hotel is a 50-room international mountain eco-resort located at the western hillside of Mount Popa in Myanmar. The resort is built in complete harmony with the natural hillside terrain and the existing lush vegetation.

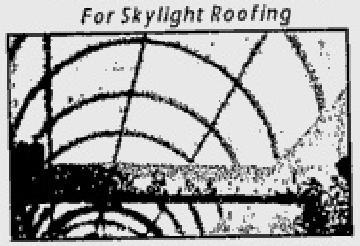
Guesthouses are oriented to avoid direct exposure to the sun's rays while at the same time receiving natural daylight and ventilation.

Building materials used are from locally available forest products such as teak wood, hardwood structural timber, seasoned bamboos, sandstones and stone blocks.

Pathways and other man-made structures were positioned as to avoid the destruction of existing trees and other naturally grown vegetation.

To prequalify for the 2006 Asean Energy Awards, please call Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243.

The author is the chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



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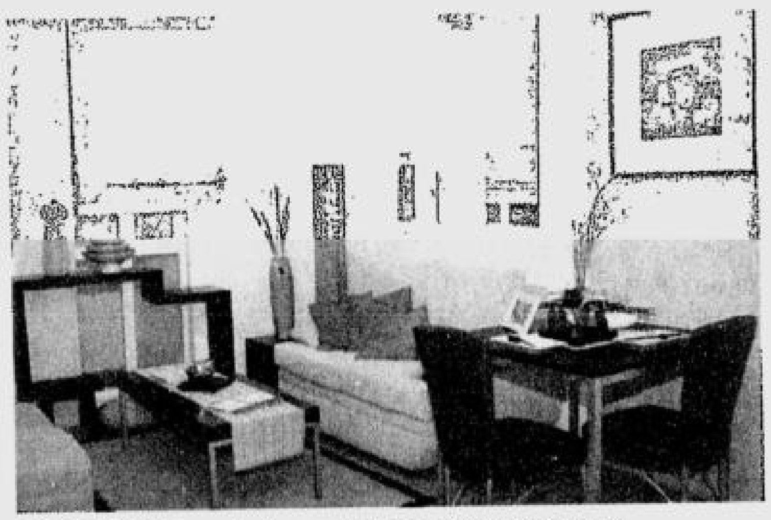
First condo to rise in Marikina



ZEN-THEMED one-bedroom unit done by Sensibly Shiek.

BACKED by 30 years of solid experience in property management, developer Federal Land partners with model city Marikina to bring residents to a higher state of living. Marquinton Residences is an 8-story residential-commercial condominium owned by the real estate arm of the Metrobank Group.

Federal Land pioneered the concept of living in vertical apartments and condominiums in the Philippines. Today, luxury buildings on Roxas Boulevard and high-rises like the cutting-edge GT Tower in Makati stand as a testament to the company's commitment to meet the client's fullest expectations.

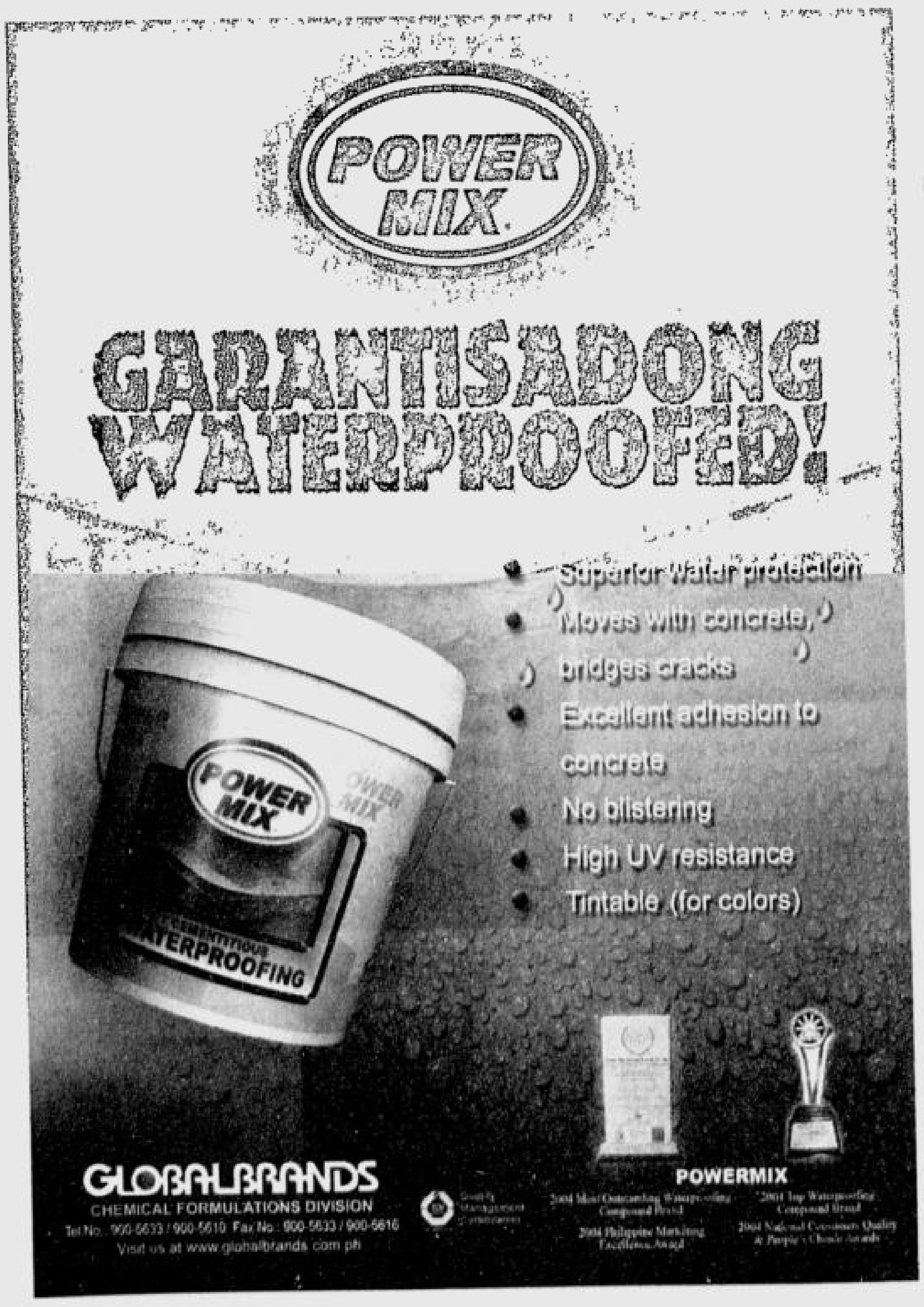
Newlyweds, young Marikeños starting an independent life but want the security of living near where they grew up, or people from Antipolo and Cainta who study in schools around the area will appreciate the comfort, convenience and security of living in Marquinton Residences.

Recreational, health facilities

Masterplanned to tailor-fit the modern lifestyle of residents, it makes available a host of social, recreational and health facilities: a resort-type swimming pool, clubhouse, multipurpose function room, outdoor children's playground, gym, basketball and tennis courts, courtyard garden and pond, picnic area and bicycle lanes. There will be commercial spaces on the ground level so what you need is almost at your doorstep.

To provide unit owners, their families and friends a special place to unwind, Federal Land brings Blue Wave, a popular entertainment destination south of Roxas Boulevard, beside Marquinton Residences. Visitors can relax and dine in famous outlets like Jollibee, Greenwich, KFC, Starbucks, Pancake House and Chowking, catch the latest hits in the cinemas, and shop in trendy retail stores at Blue Wave. The city government and Federal Land made certain that there is ample parking within the development to accommodate the public.

Intelligently planned Marquinton Residences is all about providing a better quality of living, plus job and entrepreneurial opportunities for Marikina residents. The vision of the local government to make Marikina the "City that Works"—following the example of Singapore—will be given a boost once its first condominium, Marquinton Residences, rises. For further details, call 889-6414 and 889-4900, log on to www.federalland.com.ph or email inquiry@federalland.com.ph.



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Satellite cities . . .

From page B2-1

proach" to property development, has five residential towers interspersed with its mid-rise mall and school buildings, and executive offices. Another residential tower is scheduled for completion by 2007. Rockwell, much like Eastwood, actively promotes pedestrian movement that includes jogging and strolling.

Its landscaped architecture espouses the theme of "giving back the green to the community." It has a centralized Rockwell Leisure Club to promote physical activities.

The Power Plant Mall is the first mall to prohibit smoking inside the premises. It enforced this rule long before the city local government passed its antismoking ordinance.

It was also Rockwell's initiative to put greenery under the Edsa-Estrella skyramp and provide lush greens on the islands and sidewalks of Estrella Street, Rockwell Drive and Kalayaan Avenue that prompted the local government as well as the DPWH to beautify and "green" other existing infrastructure.

Rockwell has its own garbage segregation and recycling system, and its own water treatment plant.

Keeping fit

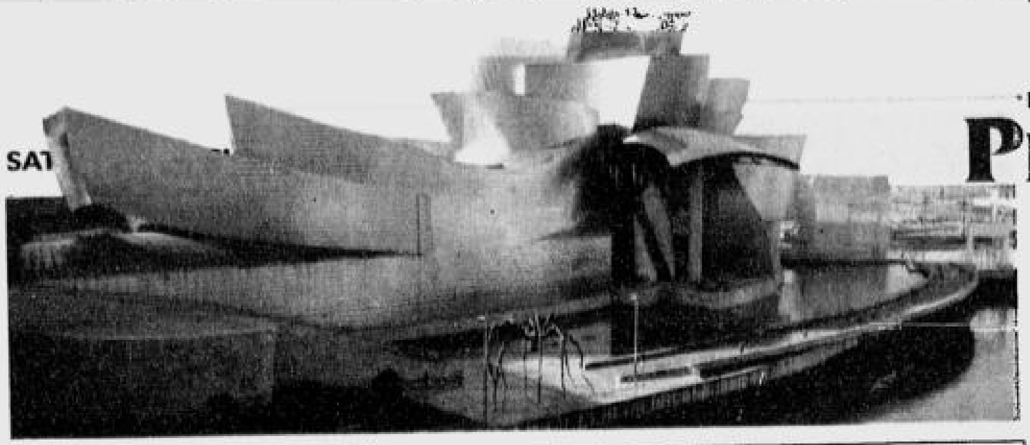
Various regular weekend groups can be seen using the open spaces to jog, bike or perform other exercises.

"Good Morning, Rockwell" is a health and fitness initiative launched in 2003 to encourage the use of the satellite city's open spaces with weekend classes such as taebo and capoeira with the help of professional instructors. These classes are also offered to groups, corporations, schools and institutions for teambuilding activities.

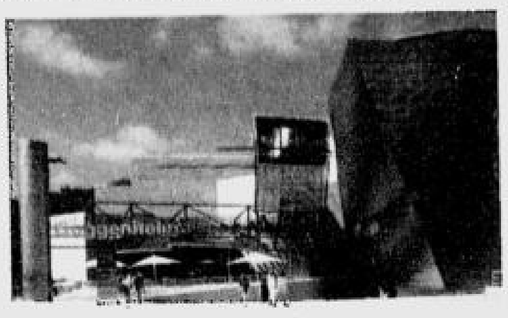
An organic market is hosted during weekends.

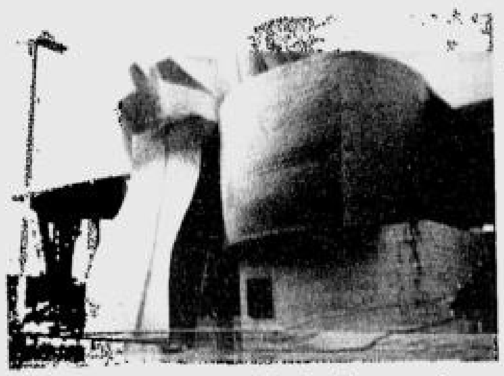
Open spaces are so valued by these satellite cities that they let go of potential revenues had there been business establishments put up in these areas.

Each of Eastwood City's commercial establishments has allotted 60 percent for open spaces. Rockwell dedicates 50 percent of its entire land to open space.



THE GUGGENHEIM Museum Bilbao





PAPER-THIN "fish-scale" titanium panels cover most of the extraordinary structure.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

IT may give the impression of a writhing, restless creature, waiting motionlessly to jump at first-time visitors.

But what seems like an erratic, jutting structure is responsible for putting Bilbao, Spain, on the map.

One of the several museums of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao sits on a 24,000-square-meter site on the banks of the Nervion River, 16 meters below the level of the rest of the city. Designed by North American Frank O. Gehry applying a curvaceous, free-form style that has become a signature of the architect, it is often hailed as one of the world's most spectacular buildings in the style of deconstructionism and claims that it doesn't have a single flat surface in its entire structure.

Unusual combination

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is an unusual combination of interconnecting shapes, a winding mix of limestone blocks and titanium curves. Most of the building is covered in "fish-scale" titanium panels half-millimeter thick but guaranteed to last a hundred years. Glass walls allow light in the serpentine structure while protecting the works of art from heat and radiation.

And as if the appearance of the museum isn't enough, Gehry placed at the top of the atrium what seems like a metal flower which serves as a skylight.

Eleven thousand square meters of space are provided for exhibition galleries which were built on three levels around the atrium and interconnected by curving walkways, glass elevators and stair turrets.

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao seems like a modest structure on street level but one can get a breathtaking view of the structure from the river. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*

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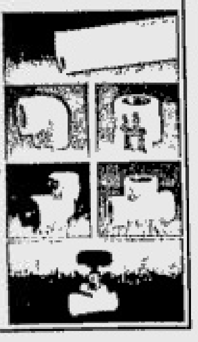

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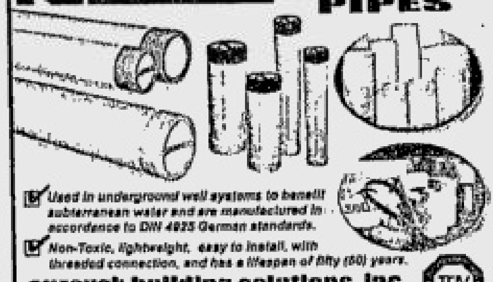

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Puno ng magaganda't makabagong idea si **Arch. Alejandro V. Pascua, Technical Management Officer ng Earth + Style Corporation.**
Bilang tagapamahala ng value engineering sa Earth + Style, naniniwala siya na maaaring ipagsama ang kalidad at tamang presyo sa pagtatayo ng isang matagumpay na proyekto. Napatunayan niya ito nang gumamit siya ng **AddMix Plus** sa eleganteng 2-storey housing units ng Earth + Style sa Biñan, Laguna at Cavite. Sa ready-to-use powder admixture na gamit sa pagsesemento ng hollow blocks, nakatipid siya ng katamtamang gastos sa semento!
Walang sakripisyo sa ganda, galing, kalidad at tatag ng proyekto, pero may katipiran sa budget sa AddMix Plus. Kaya nasabi ng ekspertong si Arch. Pascua na walang tigil sa paghanap ng makabagong paraan at abot-kayang materiales para sa kanyang magagandang proyekto. *"I haven't found anything cheaper and better then AddMix Plus."*
Tipid sa oras, budget at labor, nadiscover sa Iloilo.
Mahalaga kay **Arnold H. Dupit, civil engineer at contractor sa Iloilo,** na matapos ang proyekto sa tamang deadline.Ngunit bilang structural engineer sa pagtayo ng maraming hotel sa Iloilo, tulad ng La Fiesta Hotel at Four Seasons Hotel, na umaasa sa tourist market, alam rin nyang di kailanman maisakripisyo ang tatag at kalidad ng trabaho para lang makatipid sa oras. Kaya laking pasasalamat niya na nadiscover nya ang mga produkto ng **AddMix.**
Sa kanyang kasalukuyang hinahawakang road projects or high-end housing projects sa Iloilo, kung saan nahaharap na naman siya sa pagsubok na matapos ang proyekto di lamang sa oras kundi matapos rin itong matatag, maganda at maipagmamalaki niya, gumamit siya ng **AddMix Ultra, Easy** at **Tilebond.**
Sa **AddMix Ultra**, nakatipid siya sa oras at trabahador dahil mas madaling ihalo ang semento at mas mabilis ang curing time. Sa **AddMix Easy**, ang admixture na gamit sa mortar at plastering, nadiscover ni Arnold na mas napapadali ang palitada. Sa pagkabit ng tiles, siguradong **AddMix Tilebond** na rin ang gagamitin niya dahil tiwala si Arnold na sa bawat AddMix product na gamit niya, nakakamit niya ang *"...the same great time, money and labor-saving qualities"* na hanap niya.
Sa Mindanao, may tulay sa magandang buhay sa tulong ng AddMix!
Hindi naging hadlang kay **Engineer Brenda B. Fuentes** ang pagiging isang babae para makatulong sa pagpapatayo at pag-aayos ng mga tulay sa Mindanao. Bilang **Project-In-Charge ng Allado Construction**, kasama sa maraming matagumpay na proyekto ni Engr. Fuentes ang 40-meter Luhib Bridge sa South Cotabato na nagdurugtong sa Sorella sa South Cotabato, sa Lake Cebu, ang 150-meter Kablacan Bridge sa Saranggani, at ngayon ay dalawang kontrata na magbibigay ng 23 na tulay sa mga taga-Mindanao.
Malaki ang naitulong ng **AddMix Ultra**, ang cement fortifier at accelarator, sa pagpapatayo at pagpapatibay ng mga tulay na ito. *"We were able to save as much as 10% on materials because of AddMix"*, sabi niya. Ngunit higit pa rito, mas mabilis matapos ang mga tulay dahil mas mabilis tumigas at lumakas ang istraktura ng tulay. Kaya mas madali itong magagamit ng mga taga-Mindanao, lalo na sa pagtawid ng kanilang mga produkto sa ibang lugar.
Iba't-ibang eksperto, nagkaisa ng tiwala sa AddMix. Matipid, matibay, makapit, madikit. AddMix, ang sekreto ng mahusay ng Kongkreto.

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Developers, HUDCC to jointly hold housing fair this week

By Charles E. Buban

AFFORDABLE housing is critically important to the well being and health of families. Without decent and affordable housing, families have trouble managing their daily lives.

"Families who pay more than they can afford for housing have too little left over for other necessities such as food, clothing and health care. We need to offer these families some assistance," says Subdivision and Housing Developers Association national president Willie Uy who announces their forthcoming housing fair organized together with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

The six-day housing fair, titled Dream Homes will be held at the lower level of Ayala Center in Makati from Aug. 15 to 20.

Showcasing housing packages

"We want to showcase housing packages that would enable these families to also pay for transportation and child care. This fair is one way of addressing the increasing number of homeless families or those living in substandard housing," says Uy.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who is concurrently chair of HUDCC, will be the guest of honor at the opening of the event on Monday.

The goal of the fair, according to SHDA chair Marilu Alferez, is to help families who are considering buying a house and would want to compare packages offered by various developers.

"We are honored that the HUDCC is very active in organizing this event and developers are more than happy to help solve the housing backlog, now currently pegged at 3.5 million," says Alferez.

24 developers

"We have invited 24 of the top housing developers and affiliates in the country. Reputable housing developers, financing agencies and allied industry members are also joining the fair as exhibitors," reveals Alferez.

Exhibitors joining the housing fair are Banff Realty and Development Corp., Burgundy Realty Corp., Camella Homes Inc., Casimiro Development Corp., Cemex Philippines, Community Innovations Inc., Concrete Ventures Group Inc., CPAC Monier Philippines Inc., DMCI Homes, Duraville Realty and Development Corp., Federal Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.

Also joining are Home Development Mutual Fund, Homeowners Development Corp., Honeycomb Builders Inc., James Hardie Philippines Inc., LPHI, Masaito Development Corp., PA Alvarez Properties and Development Corp., Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines Inc., Phinma Property Holdings Corp., Prominence Property Development Corp., Property Company of Friends and Quadrillion Sales Inc.

Uy believes that with these groups joining the fair, the event would provide information like how to get the best available financing schemes for buyers and families and others seeking to invest in other property in Metro Manila and elsewhere in the country.

Rewarding Moments Happen at Citta Italia

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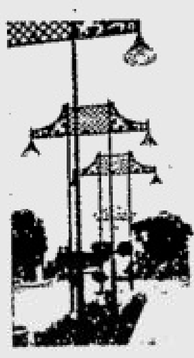

More than just a roof over your head

Citta means "city" in Italian. But the namesake goes beyond your expectations. Strategically located at Bacoor-Imus, Cavite, Citta Italia is a master-planned community of Crown Asia, one of the most diversified real estate developers in the country today. It offers Italian-inspired homes with exemplary amenities attributed to urban living, yet tucked comfortably within a fresh and relaxing environment.

Strategic location

Citta Italia offers comfortable edge and one of which is accessibility. Surrounded by large-scale business and institutional establishments, all routes provide easy access to all your necessities. The four major thoroughfares: SLEX, Coastal Road, Alabang-Zapote Road and Aguinaldo Highway are easy routes to and from your points of origin.

Educational and Medical institutions in Alabang, Parañaque, Manila and Makati are located just a few minutes away for the comfort and security of your loved ones.

For your everyday needs, shopping malls like SM Bacoor and Robinsons Imus are just a short distance away.

New Access Opens

Management and staff together with Crown Asia's President Jerry M. Navarette recently inaugurated the opening of Citta Italia's Molino Boulevard entrance gate. This latest development enhances Citta Italia's accessibility to more major commercial centers such as the Alabang Town Center, Festival Malls and the forthcoming SM Molino Mall.

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Indulge in the superb amenities of the *Piazza d' Citta Italia* Club House undisturbed and secured by the round-the-clock security. Imbibe your senses to the tranquil invitation of a cozy ambience amid landscaped parks. For health buffs, be overwhelmed with sports and other recreational activities to tone down your tired muscles at the Sports Complex. And before retiring to the awaiting softness of your bed within the calming corners of your bedroom, enjoy a refreshing plunge at the swimming pool.

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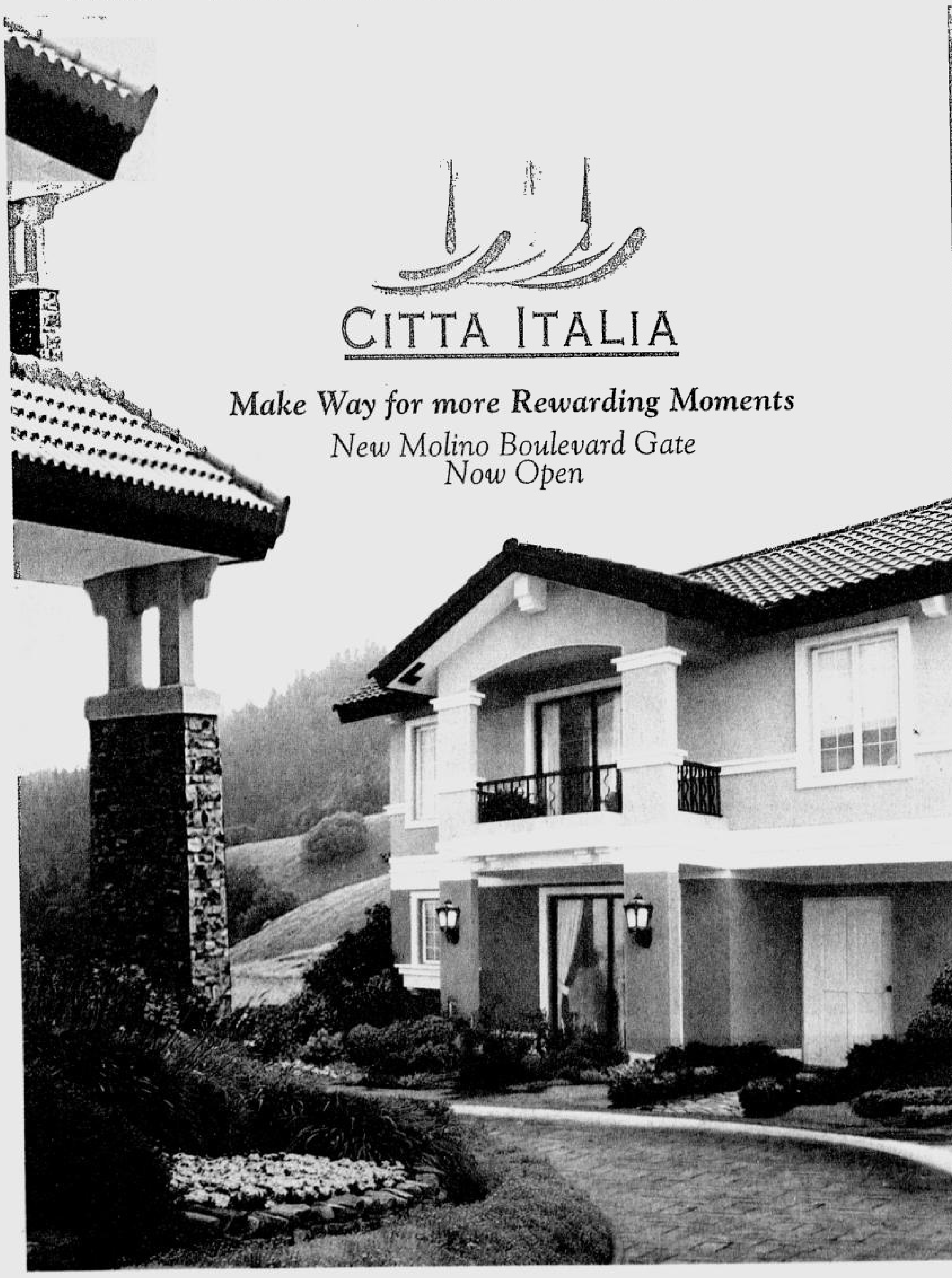
Finally, a premium life within your means. Model homes feature two and three distinctive floor plans with spacious living room, lanai, dining, and other family-centered areas. House and lot packages range in price from Php 1.5M to Php 7M. And for as low as Php 12,000 ++ a month, you can start having your very own corner in this world.

From all that you've been through and to where you are now, the success you have achieved comes with a prize - a perfect family inside a perfect home. Live in the comfort of Citta Italia. Truly, a rewarding experience.



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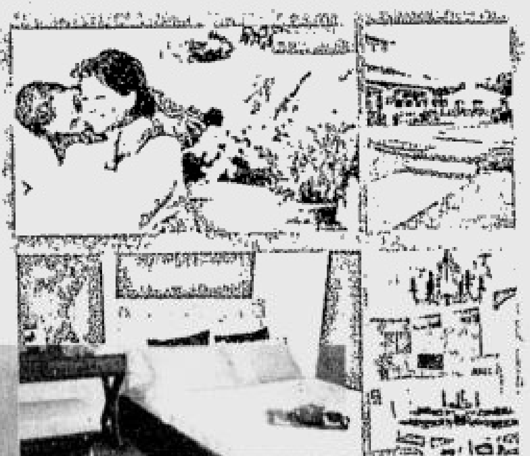

How to get to Citta Italia:

Via Coastal Road going to Bacoor, turn right on Aguinaldo Highway going to Imus, passing SM Bacoor. Turn left at JICA Road and you will see Medical Center Imus. Go straight until you reach Citta Italia on the left.

Via Alabang Exit, take Commerce Avenue then pass through Daang Hari. Go straight and cross Molino Road. Turn right on Bahayang Pag-asa Avenue. Follow the road leading to Buhay na Tubig Road and go straight until you see Citta Italia on the right.

Via Alabang, take Alabang-Zapote Road towards Cavite, turn left at Moonwalk (Marcos Alvarez Ave.). Follow the road going to Jollibee Molino. Turn left on Molino Road, go straight, then turn right at Bahayang Pag-asa Avenue. Turn right again upon reaching Jetti Gasoline Station. Follow the road leading to Buhay na Tubig Road and go straight until you see Citta Italia on the right.

Via Carmona Exit, take Governors Drive. Turn right on Aguinaldo Hi-way taking Manila route passing Imus Toll Bridge. Turn right at Jica Road and you will see Imus Medical Center. Go straight until you reach Citta Italia on the left.

For inquiries, please call
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005

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All Stars, all set for battle? page D2

KC Concepcion heads the Artists' Fair page E1

The 'I AM SUPER' award goes to... page F2

Quotable quotes from our Super peeps page C2

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: JAKE VERSOZA
Styling: LEMA DIAZ
Special Thanks to LIZ UY
Cover stars: ALL STARS

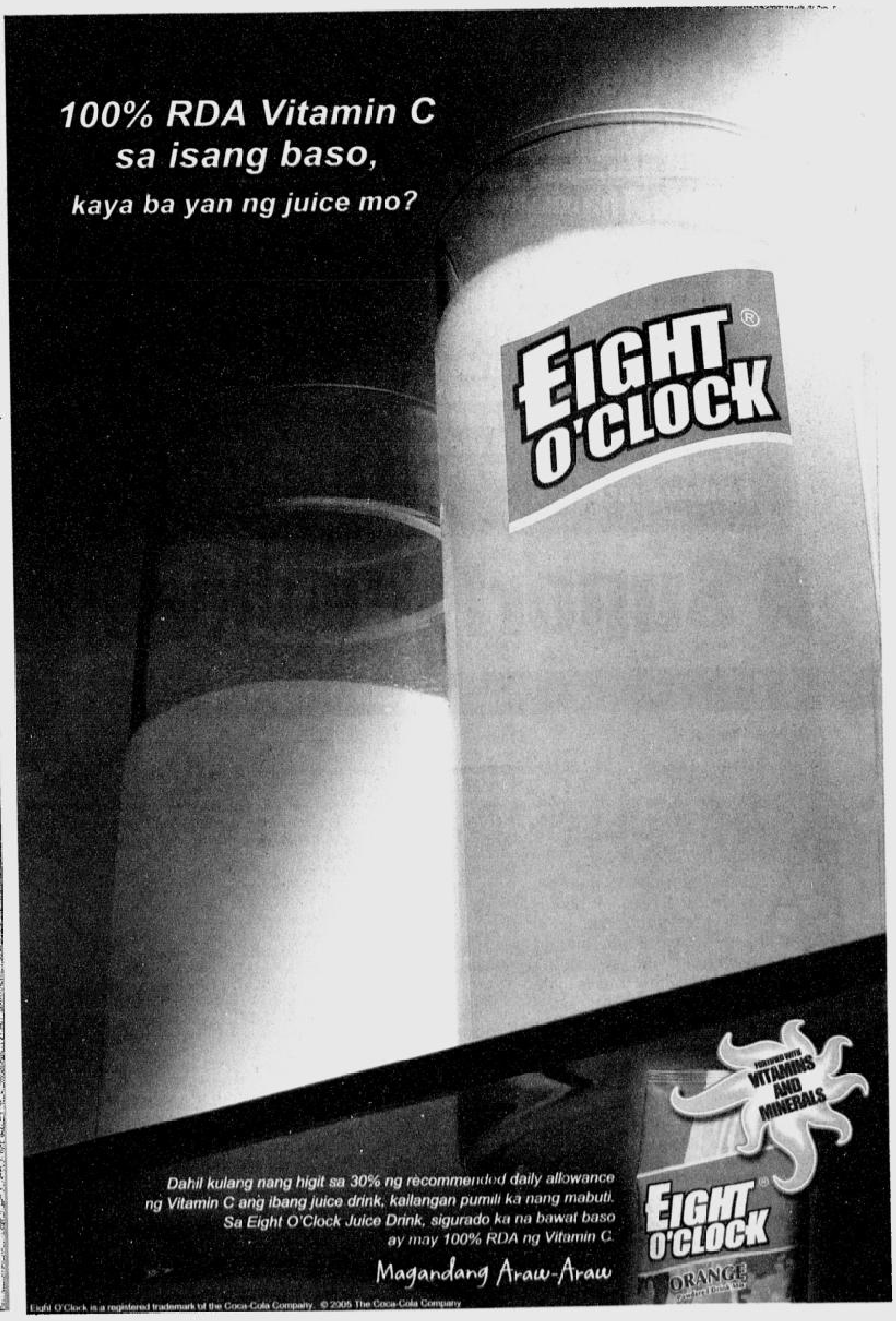
I Am Super! Awardees 2005

KC Concepcion
Epy Quizon
Vince Uy
Anne Arcenas and Freddie Gonzales
Mikey Garovillo
I Love You Girls—Corinne Ching, Sharon Atillo, Mimi Sanson
Nathan Azarcon
Lex Ledesma
Carlos Celdran
KC Montero
Mishka Adams
MODI Girls—Tracie Anglo-Dizon, Mara Cosculuela, Richie Ortega, Mel La O' Monster Jimenez and Mario Coronel
Bianca Gonzales
Ino Caluza
Kate Torralba
Yam Laranas
AF Benaza

Super thanks

Not Enough Circuses led by Director Ariel Lozada with Maggie Gineta, Joel Acebedo and Ana Lloren
Kodak
Miller Genuine Draft,
Rene Barbier Wines,
Absolut Vodka,
Jack Daniels
Holy Kettle Corn Popcorn,
Josiah's Catering,
Embassy Cuisine and Super Club
Rayban, Killer Loop and Arnette Eyewear
MVS System Tech Corporation, Prime Image, Cut Unlimited,
And all the artists, merchants, shoppers, friends, fans who made our second year anniversary a Super success.

Stay super.



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Magandang Araw-Araw

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"If not for Tessa and Tim who discovered me, if I did not attend the Preview party, I would be pregnant and barefoot in Cebu now." - Kate Torralba

"It was a long flight from Brazil. And when I got here, I was surprised to see people wearing Havaianas. These people deserve this award for bringing a piece of Brazil to Manila." - Joao

"My first photo shoot was with Mark Nicdao. I don't think I would have been as comfortable if he wasn't the photographer." - Georgina Wilson

"Sigaw will have a Hollywood premiere... Thank you, Super Friends." - Yam Laranas

"You guys should guest in my show." - Jojo A.

"I wish all fairs were like this. Ang gaganda ng mga tinda." - Eddie Boy Escudero

"If you compare three similar structures - the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China and the Banawe Rice Terraces - that have been hailed internationally as world wonders, only ours were built by free men with drive and passion and hardwork. The other two were built by slave labor. Only in the Philippines! We're a race of honest and hardworking people. We should go back to our roots." - Lex Ledesma

"I remember that the first sentence of my first article for Super went "Yam Laranas has more vision than the Hubble space telescope." " - James Gabrillo

"Thanks to Super for inventing a category for the youth voice." - Bianca Gonzales

"Three years ago, I was on top of mango trees, picking mangoes. But now I'm on top of a platform, picking up a trophy." - Mark Nicdao

"I didn't think it would be this big. Originally, I just wanted a garage sale." - KC Concepcion

"I remember Rajo texted me a few months ago at 3 a.m., "Dude, I got laid wearing Viktor." I guess it was one of the best affirmations of the brand that given the right attitude, a good pair of Viktor can get you laid." - Ino Caluza

"Para sa isang bansang ang intelihensya ay binabase sa pagsasalita ng wikang banyaga, and husay, sa pag-aaral sa ibang bansa. Mayroon akong nakilala na kapatid na handang dumugo para sa sining at talino ng sariling kulay...isang kapatid sa pananampalataya, isang kapatid sa paniniwala, isang kapatid na duguang lumalaban sa kulturang nilamon ng modernisasyon at pagka-walang bilib sa kakayahan ng kanyang kapwa Pilipino. Isang kapatid na kasamang kaharap sa lahat ng balakid ng industriya sa anumang angulo maitaguyod lamang ang binubulong ng puso. Isang kapatid na kasamang di maitutumba ng pangtutuya at paglilitis ng mga mangmang at ng mga taong mas masangsang pa sa patay na isda." - Ronald Pasion on Epy Quizon

"It's about time someone gave me an award. This one's for me. Thank you to me. I love me." - KC Montero

"I love you, I love you, I love you." - Corinne Ching, Mimi Sanson and Sharon Atillo

"With a super idea, super passion and super originality, you can be a super individual." - Anne Arcenas-Gonzales

"Did you ever think that modern indigenous would be so cool? Did you ever think that modern indigenous would be so global? This next award goes to a group that has taken the best of Filipino ethnic traditions, given them a modern twist and served them up for a new generation to appreciate." - Gino de la Paz and Pauline Suaco-Juan

A Super! double celebration

A Super! double celebration

Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind

By Isagani Yambot
Inquirer Publisher
Artwork by Marlone Rubio

(Remarks delivered by Isagani Yambot, publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer at the celebration of the second anniversary of Super! on Aug. 6, 2005 at the NBC Tent, The Fort.)

ALLOW me to begin these remarks on a personal note. I always feel young and invigorated every time I am around young people like you. I was young once, and I know how it feels to be young—I know the exuberance, the delight and the joy of being young.

Now I am old, but I am still young at heart. As I often say, I may be a senior citizen upstairs but downstairs I'm Junior INQUIRER. Or perhaps I should say I'm Super downstairs, except that I may not live up to the billing. What I mean is that my legs are still strong and proof of that is that I finished the 4-kilometer fun run of the INQUIRER last December—*kaya lang, pangalawa sa kulelat.*

This is a celebration of Super and this is also part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the INQUIRER. By any measure 2 years is young, and 20 years is also young, unless one is suffering from progeria or premature aging. Speaking of progeria, some people are born old because they always look at the world through dark glasses, not through rose-colored ones. Especially at this time, we have to look at the brighter side of things—that is, if we can find the brighter side.

Saturday Special Super is one of the brighter aspects, one of the brighter sections of the INQUIRER. Because it is written and edited and put together by young people, it reflects the dynamism, the exuberance, the joie de vivre of the youth. I've seen some very good writing in Super and I wish we had such good writers in the main section of the paper.

When Super was launched two years ago, the blurb for it on the front page said that it was intended especially for "young weekend warriors" and would offer choices of what to do, where to go, and with whom and why, who to see, what to wear, who's coming and who's going. It said it would offer its readers mind candy and food for thought. Well, it certainly has lived up to its billing.

Wasted on the young?

Back to the subject of youth. George Bernard Shaw said that youth is wasted on the young. I don't think so. But of course, it depends on how you define who are young—young physically, or young at heart and young in the mind. The thing that is most important, for me, especially as a journalist, is that we have to always be psychologically, mentally and spiritually young—we have to preserve our sense of childlike wonder at everything in our universe. Once we begin to lose that sense of childlike wonder, we begin to die in deepest sense of the word.

Unlike Shaw, Byron had some good things to write about youth. He said that "the days of our youth are the days of our glory." Who are the old persons who do not reminisce about their youth with fondness and nostalgia? They always remember the days of their youth as some of the best years of their lives.

And so I say, today, the 2nd anniversary celebration of Super, which is part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the INQUIRER, is also a celebration of youth. Let's enjoy ourselves while we are young, and remember the lyrics of an 18th century song sung in European universities:

Gaudeamus igitur
Juvenes dum sumus
Post jucundam juventutem
Post molestam senectutem
Nos habebit humus…
(Translation:)
Let's rejoice then
While we are young
After our pleasant youth,
After our troubled old age,
The earth will have us…

Sorry about that last morbid line. But that is life. Every man's life, it is said, can be summed up in three sentences: He lived. He suffered. He died.

But our lives will not be useless suffering if during our short stay on earth, we can accomplish something good.

Read, read, read

I believe that all you young people involved in putting out the Super are accomplishing something good because you're giving the youth some very good writing, photography and art. Your sense of humor entertains your readers and helps them forget about the bad news that never seems to leave us. But most important of all, for us in the INQUIRER, you are helping to promote the reading of newspapers by the youth. I heard it said once that even in class, some students read Super under their desks while the teacher is not looking. So thank you for promoting the habit of reading.

I cannot end these remarks without reading another quotation about youth. Samuel Ullman said, and I quote him: "Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of red cheeks, red lips and supple knees. It is a temper of the will; a quality of the imagination; a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life…

And further on, he says: "You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence; as old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as your despair…"

So, I say amid the feeling of gloom and doom that pervades our country today, I say, let us always keep the optimism of the youth. Let us have faith, let us have self-confidence and let us have hope in ourselves and in our future. Seeing you here with your beautiful and handsome bright faces, I have no doubt that with the help of the youth we shall overcome these temporary difficulties and troubles and that ultimately our nation will be back on the road to progress.

SUPER! 24/7 EVENT GUIDE

Boom! Crash! Clash! Silence

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Paolo R. Reyes

THESE days, "fusion" is fast becoming a prevailing trend in events. From the ongoing German Silent Film Festival (where contemporary Filipino musicians score silent classics on the spot) to the upcoming Rockestra concert (where indie rock bands join forces with the Manila Symphony Orchestra), organizers seem to be more adventurous in their approach, and their concepts far more clever.

Entertainment is, by all accounts, a risky business; one where the fragile twain of fame and fortune can rise and fall in a flash. So having the courage to create something original and take that tenuous leap of faith is a noble effort in itself. We look forward to more surprises in the coming months.

Pelikula @ Titus Brandsma, 1 p.m. today

For the month of August, Pelikula @ Titus Brandsma—one of the local purveyors of art house film screenings—will show three movies that Hollywood has recently ventured to remake: "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "Oldboy," and "L'Appartement." Also to be screened are the short films "Interstate" and "K-Mart Confidential." 1 p.m. onwards at the Titus Brandsma Center, 24 Acacia St., New Manila, Q.C. Admission is free. Call 726-6054.

Mishka Adams @ 70s Bistro & Saguijo, August 16 & 17

Young jazz minstrel Mishka Adams—the talented British-Filipina phenomenon behind the album "God Bless the Child" —brings her captivating vocals to 70s Bistro [46 Anonas St., Q.C., phone: 434-3597] on Tuesday at 10 p.m. and to Saguijo [7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati, phone: 897-8629] on Wednesday at 9 p.m. She will also be performing in Wasabi [7912 Makati Ave., Makati, phone: 840-4223] on Aug. 25.

Rockestra: when two musical worlds collide, August 19

On Friday, the two disparate worlds of classical music and indie rock will collide in a mind-blowing concert that promises to be nothing short of explosive. In "Rockestra", six of Manila's hottest rock bands—Imago, Cambio, Sandwich, Silent Sanctuary, Sugarfree, and Twisted Halo—will share the stage with the renowned Manila Symphony Orchestra in a unique collaboration that will take place at the Folk Arts Theater at 7:30 p.m. You can leave the top hat and tails at home, because the dress code is strictly "smartly caustic". Call 891-9999 or 879-4589.

Superfly @ Nuvo, August 19

The newest addition to the Greenbelt strip's growing number of weekly gigs is Superfly's "The Lounge" at Nuvo [G/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati, phone: 757-3698]. Every Friday night at 10 p.m., you can now party with Superfly DJ Karl Ty and special guest DJs as they bring down the house with their trademark chill house tunes. Call 0920-9510324.

BBC's Future Lounge, August 19

Every Friday at 12 midnight, Big Ben Collective (BBC) invades Future [Club Halo, Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo St., Makati, phone: 892-2503], where DJ Mike Constantino and the rest of the BBC crew get to play their own unique brand of lounge music. Constantino calls it "NovaLounge", an eclectic mix of bossa nova, samba, funk, cocktail breakbeat, and swinging standards.

Other 24/7 Super! events:

August 13, Saturday

National Anthems with NBK DJs at Mezze; Drip, Sun Valley Crew, Chilli-tee's, Fatal Posporos, and Sugar Hiccup at Saguijo; Brownman Revival at 70s Bistro; Supermodel Saturday at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Superfly Saturday with Karl Ty at Maestro; Steve Mills at Temple; DJs Patch & Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Dip N' Drop at V Bar; Club MYX at Halo; Retro Night at Quisine; Savagely Sexy Saturdays at Bed; Meat Packin' Saturdays at Government; Madcap Comedy with Marissa Sanchez at Calesa Bar, Music Motion at Nicotina Garden Pavillion

August 14, Sunday

CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; "Once on This Island" at Carlos Romulo Theater;

Clarion Chamber Ensemble's "A Czech in with Beethoven and Telemann" at Philam Life Theater, Music Motion at Doki Doki

August 15, Monday

Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba at Absinth; Acoustic Soul with Release at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Bridge at 70s Bistro; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Kearney Street at Suburbia; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Behind Closed Doors at Conway's

August 16, Tuesday

Mayonnaise, Hokage, Ombudsmen, Pope, Salamin, and Monkey spank at Saguijo; Willy Wanakah's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Ebony Grooves at V Bar; Velvet Party at Absinth; Tropikasya at Strumm's; Steak Tuesdays with DJ Scratchmark at Halo; King with Rush at Suburbia, Music Motion at Dungeon Bar, Camelot Hotel

August 17, Wednesday

Bellini Night with Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Bridge at Capone's; Come As You Are: 90's Music at Absinth; House of Rock at Halo; Dollhouse: Ladies Night at V Bar; Superklasse with Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Essential Grooves with James Mcranie at Future@Halo; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Pido at 70s Bistro, Music Motion at Nicotina Garden Pavillion

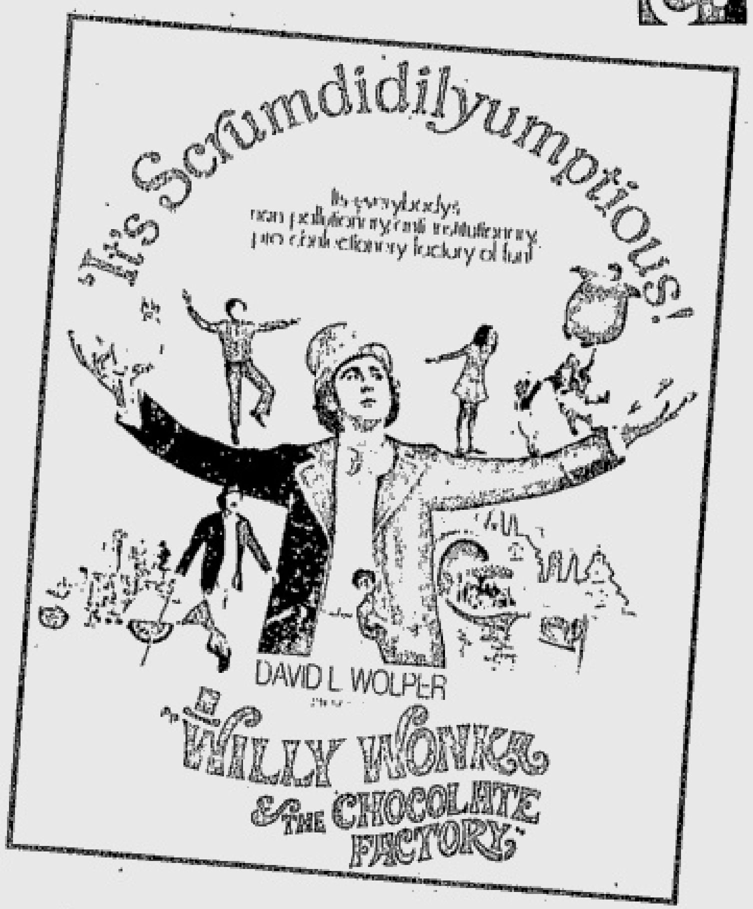
August 18, Thursday

All Souled Out Motown Tracks at Mezze; Kapatid, Kate Torralba, and Letters of Paul at Saguijo; German Silent Film Festival at SM Megamall Cinema 6; VEN Thursdays at V Bar; RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Phuture Thursdays with Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Lynn Sherman at Wasabi; Bluesviminda at 70s Bistro; Chocolate Milk at Government, Music Motion at Tap Room, Manila Hotel

August 19, Friday

NBK's HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; MyHOUSE with Elian Habayeb & Mark Jentes at M Café; Nyko Maca & Batuque Brasil at Wasabi; Cynthia Alexander, Affinity, and Copper Pop Thrill at Saguijo; MTV Pilipinas 2005 Voting Party at 6Underground; BBC's Future Lounge with Mike Constantino at Halo; Musik at Embassy Club; Friday Night Flava at Dish; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Steve Mills at V Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; Gogo Fridays at Bed; ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur; Acoustic Jive at Quisine, Music Motion at Dungeon Bar, Camelot Hotel

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.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July 29 - August 21, 2005
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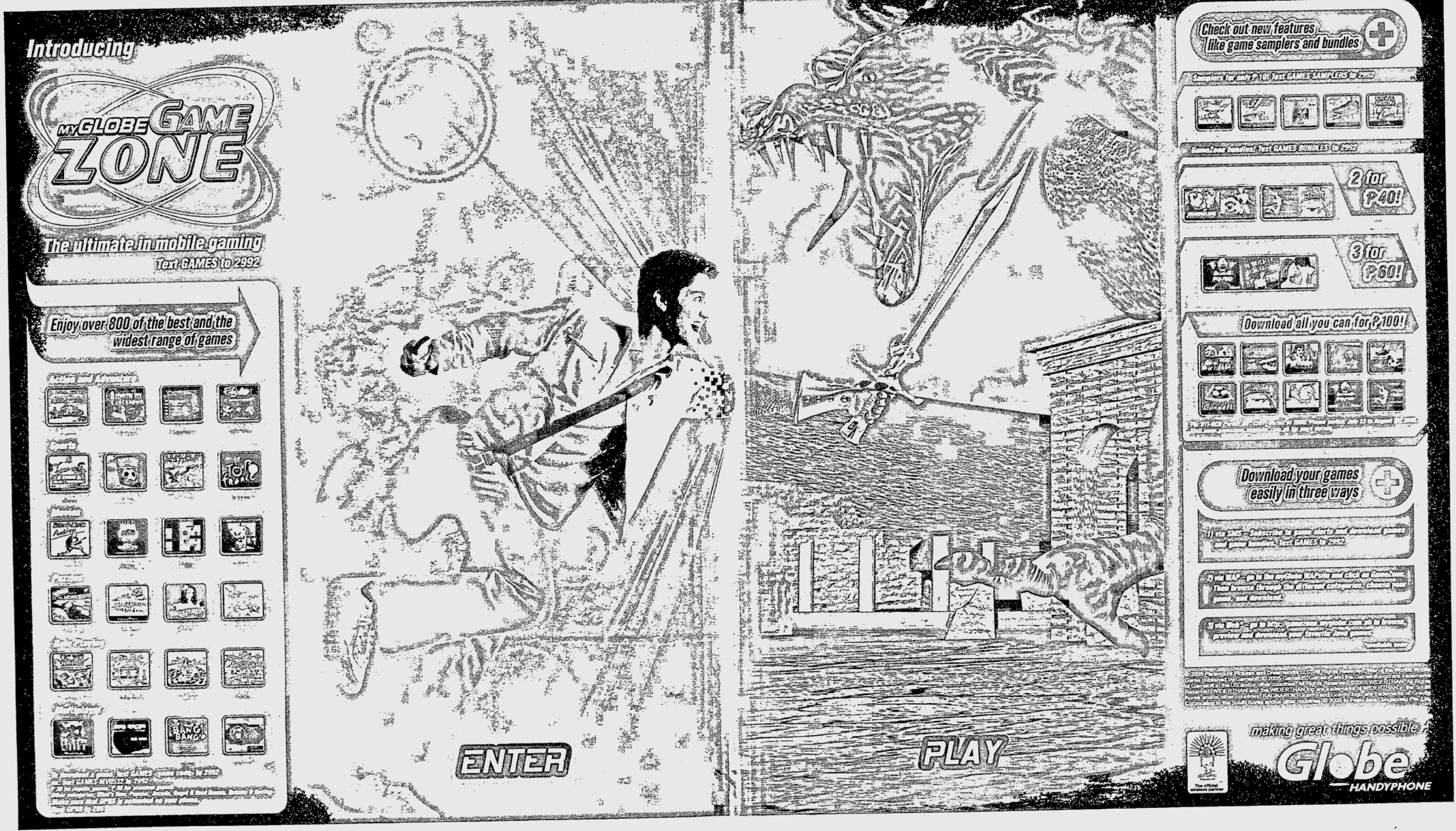
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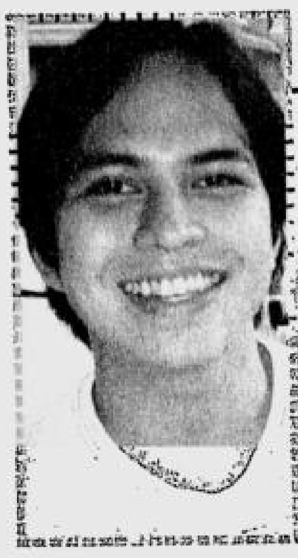
SUPERFRIENDS

Text and photos by David Milan

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



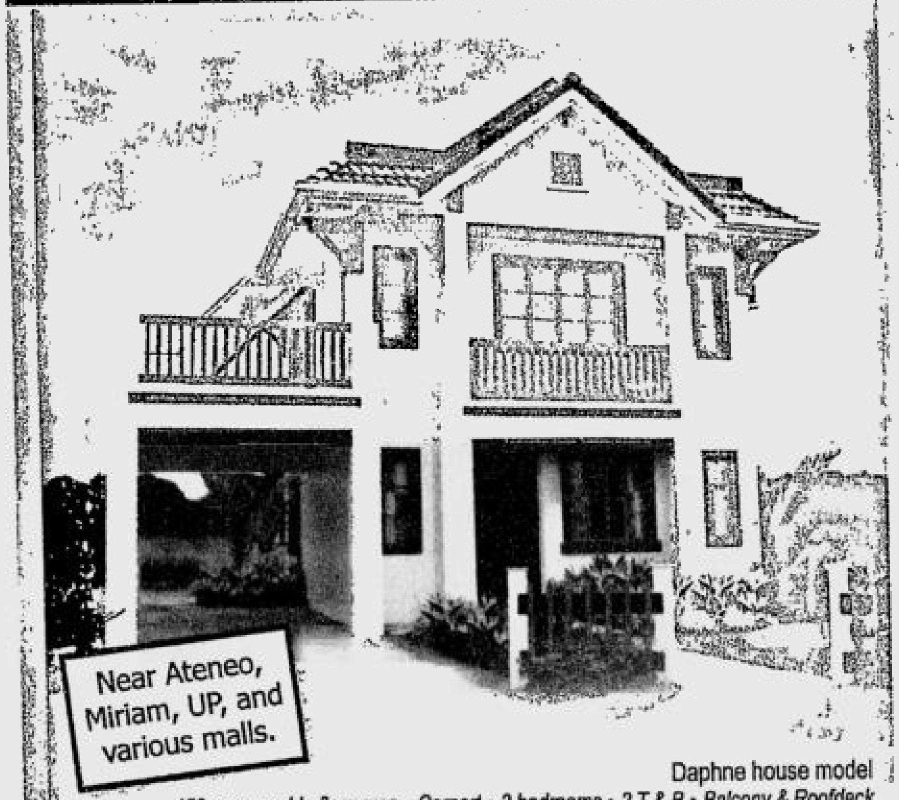
Joseph Perez

[illegible]

Nicola Mabanta

[illegible]

Discover new beginnings here at The Tropics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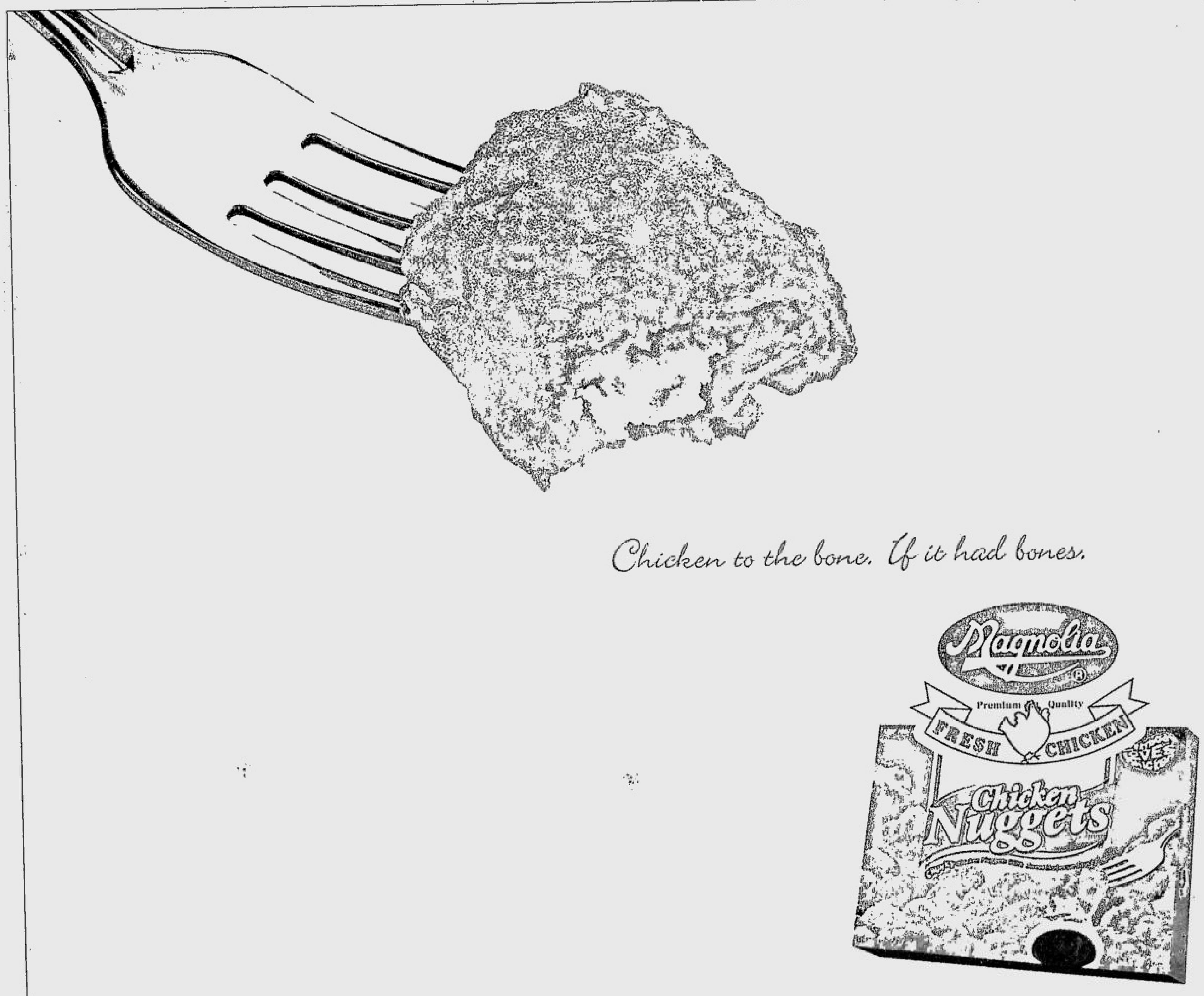
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SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Break it down

By Tim Yap and Pam Pastor
Photo by Jake Versoza

ALL STARS. The name sez it all. They all started out as individual performers. Lema Diaz is a fixture in the scene as a hip-hop dancer and is a member of the esteemed dance troupe Hot Legs. Regan Araullo won "best pop locker," in another local competition, Ken Serrano aka Kenzhons, the leader of the group, is a renowned hip-hop dance teacher and a recording artist.

Twelve different people, twelve separate lives, twelve dreamers sharing, living and breathing the same passion for expression.

And just weeks ago, they came together for one common goal—to win a hip-hop dance competition and become the Philippine representatives to the World Hip-Hop Summit.

"Before the competition we only had a week to prepare. But everything went in our favor. The competition was really intense because there were a lot of good dancers competing. But it was like we were destined to win it. It was like everything was meant to be," Lema added.

But winning wasn't as easy as it sounds.

"When we won, everyone cried because of the hard work and everything that we've been through. So many things held us back, so many struggles. Everyone had to drop work.."

And the struggles aren't over yet.

The international competition will be held on Aug. 20 in Redondo Beach in Anaheim, Los Angeles but the group is still working hard at raising funds for their trip.

"We've been rehearsing five to six hours a day and we've been doing shows to get sponsors."

Today, the group has less than a week to find sponsors. To a lot of people, that seems like a far-fetched dream. But they're keeping their eye on their goal.

"We just want to get there, compete and bring back the gold medal. We deserve to go, we've worked so hard. We're not giving up. We still believe we can do it. There's nothing better than representing our country."

It is their passion that's speaking, their fervent love for dancing, a deep attachment they've nurtured in the underground hip-hop scene. "When you dance, that's when your true soul comes out. You connect it from your heart and how you feel," Ken said.

They're still hoping for a miracle. And for a group of driven, hard-working artists, a miracle isn't too big a thing to wish for.

You may reach All Stars at 0918-6024115 (Ken Serrano) and 0920-9207988 (Lema Diaz).

Rakrakan

By James Gabrillo
and Pepe Diokno

What?
Rockestra

Who?
Sugarfree
Cambio
Sandwich
Imago
Silent Sanctuary
Twisted Halo
The Manila Symphony Orchestra

When?
Friday, August 19 at 8 p.m.

Where?
Folk Arts Theater

Why?

Are you all itching to listen to some REAL TALENT?

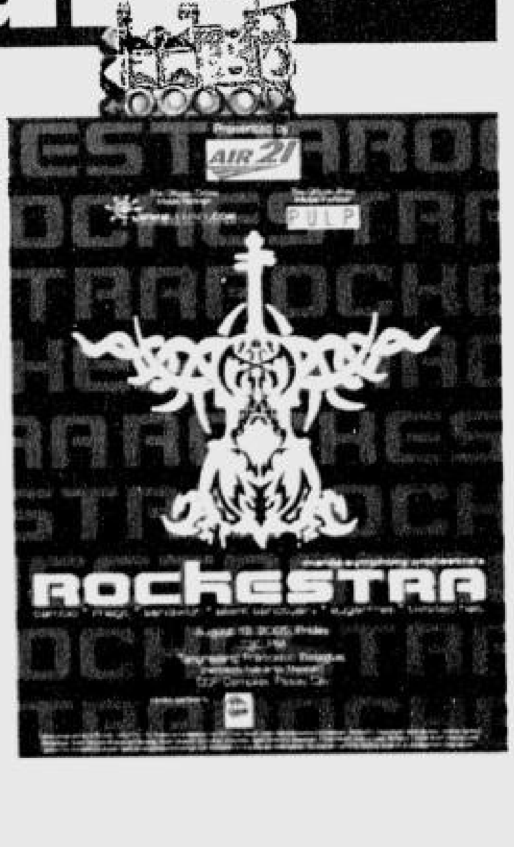
Are you interested in hearing your favorite hits played with a humongous twist?—imagine "Prom" or "Two Trick Pony" with violins, trumpets, and cellos!

If you answer yes to both questions, you win a nice pack of microscopic itching cream! ... Or you must skip giddily over to the Folk Arts Theater on Friday (the 19th) to see this show. 'Cause if you don't, it's gonna be a long wait till this happens again.

It isn't corny—it isn't (with all due respect) Mozart. It's rocking, head-smashing *'stig* music. The sound is so full, once you hear the songs you'll wonder why all bands don't do this.

We were lucky enough to get smuggled into their rehearsals this week—and *that* was an experience. *Iba talaga e.* Even the artists had goosebumps. *Astig.*

Call Ticketworld at 891-9999 for inquiries and reservations. You may also call 879-45089 or e-mail manilasymphony@gmail.com for more information.



Capturing the soul

"THE DANCE of the Soul" is a photo exhibit that is quite unique. Three photographers interpret one subject in three different situations. Most images inspired by dance focus on form and movement. It is the photographers' sensitivity to the subject matter and the presence of the spirit in the physical world that is evident in the images that are striking in their subtlety.

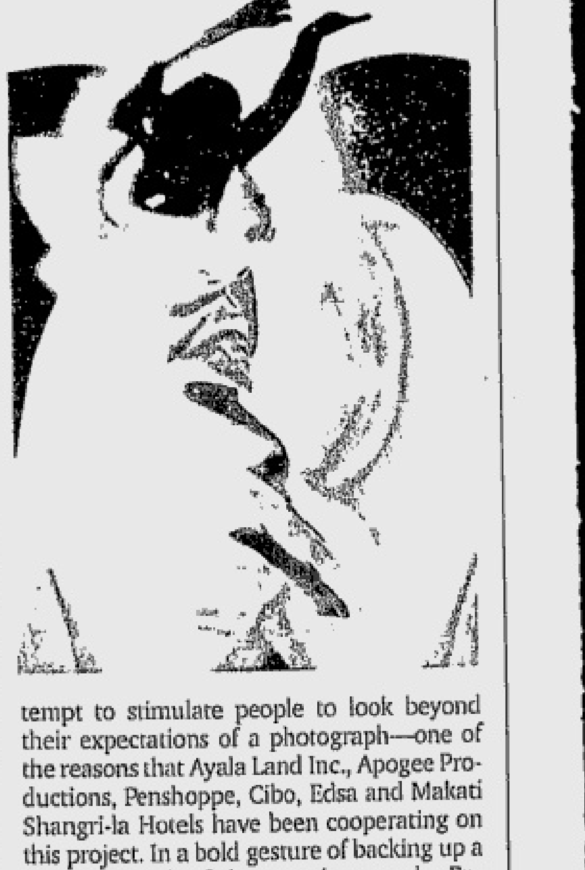
Curated by Albert Avellana, the exhibit will run from Aug. 18 to 21 at Greenbelt 3.

"The Dance of the Soul" was based on dance artist Marge Enriquez's recent one-woman multi-media show titled "Don't Think!" Vital to the exhibit was the text of "Don't Think!" which came from the teachings of Dadi Janki, an international lecturer, author and life coach. Dadi is one of the United Nations' Wisdom Keepers, a group of eminent spiritual leaders. In an American study of meditation and brain activity, Dadi Janki's thought waves were measured and found to be consistently on the delta level, or beyond the dreaming stage, even while she performs daily activities. Thus, she was tagged "The World's Most Stable Mind." Combining inspiring words and images, "The Dance of the Soul" has been created to affirm, the value of an inner sanctuary within ourselves.

Wig Tysmans' black-and-white photographs show the superimposition of words of wisdom upon dance poses and movements. Jo Chua's monochromatic portraits depict the subject peering through an acetate board, making subtlety more potent. Rejecting the conventional artifice of using Photoshop to lay out the text on the dancer's body, Tysmans and Chua used a slide projector. They were more interested in seizing the moment and playing with dimensions than in pretense and getting the perfect picture.

Photojournalist Bobot Meru goes beyond reportage of the concert "Don't Think!" by enhancing the images and manipulating reality through the magic of Photoshop. The result is a fluid, realist style.

The images show a commitment to dynamic impact over a formal, albeit self-conscious photographic quality. These works at-



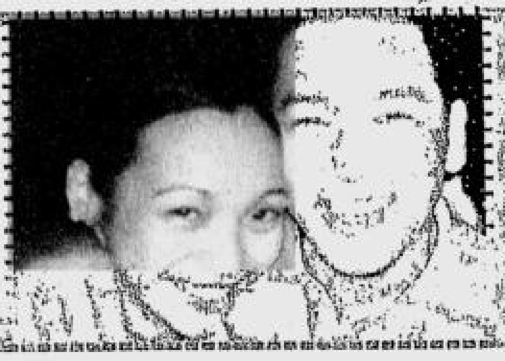
tempt to stimulate people to look beyond their expectations of a photograph—one of the reasons that Ayala Land Inc., Apogee Productions, Penshoppe, Cibo, Edsa and Makati Shangri-la Hotels have been cooperating on this project. In a bold gesture of backing up a concept outside of glamour photography, Epson Philippines has blown up the images to almost life-size proportions.

As the photographers studied their subject, they experienced various dimensions in the moment. First, the movement, shape and composition of the image. While processing, they applied the more technical aspects of photographic lore. Beyond this, they were aware of the deeper level, the "soul" of the image. They sought to express this through the tones and density of the print.

Hopefully, as people behold these images, they can enjoy the captured moments like a gateway where they can pause, examine form and content, and acknowledge the invitation to cross the threshold both within and beyond.

Joanne Mabanta

I'm proud of myself: because I believe I can do anything if I put my heart and mind into it.
I'm unique because: I love my friends and family so much I would die for them.
There are no worries when: whenever I'm with the people I love.
I love to: see the important people in my life happy by giving them small tokens which show them how much I care.
E-mail me at: jokel622@yahoo.com



Jon Crisologo

I'm proud of myself: because despite all the problems I've encountered throughout my life, I'm able to pick myself up and accomplish all the goals in my life.
I'm unique because: I'm capable of making my dreams come true.
There are no worries when: God is present in you.
I love to: be with my loved ones (especially my [illegible]) and party all night long.
E-mail me at: joncrisologo@yahoo.com

[illegible]

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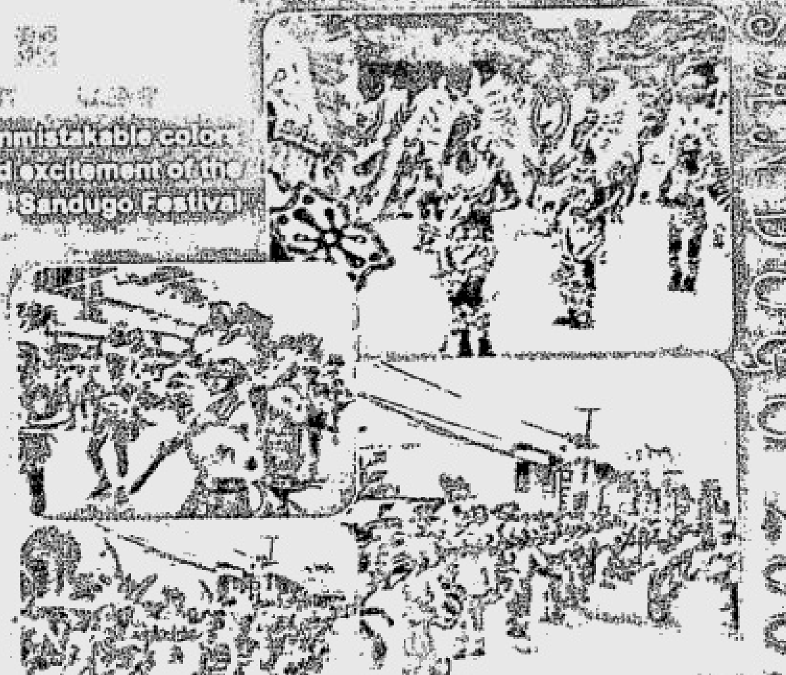
The Beats of Bohol
SANDUGO Festival 2005

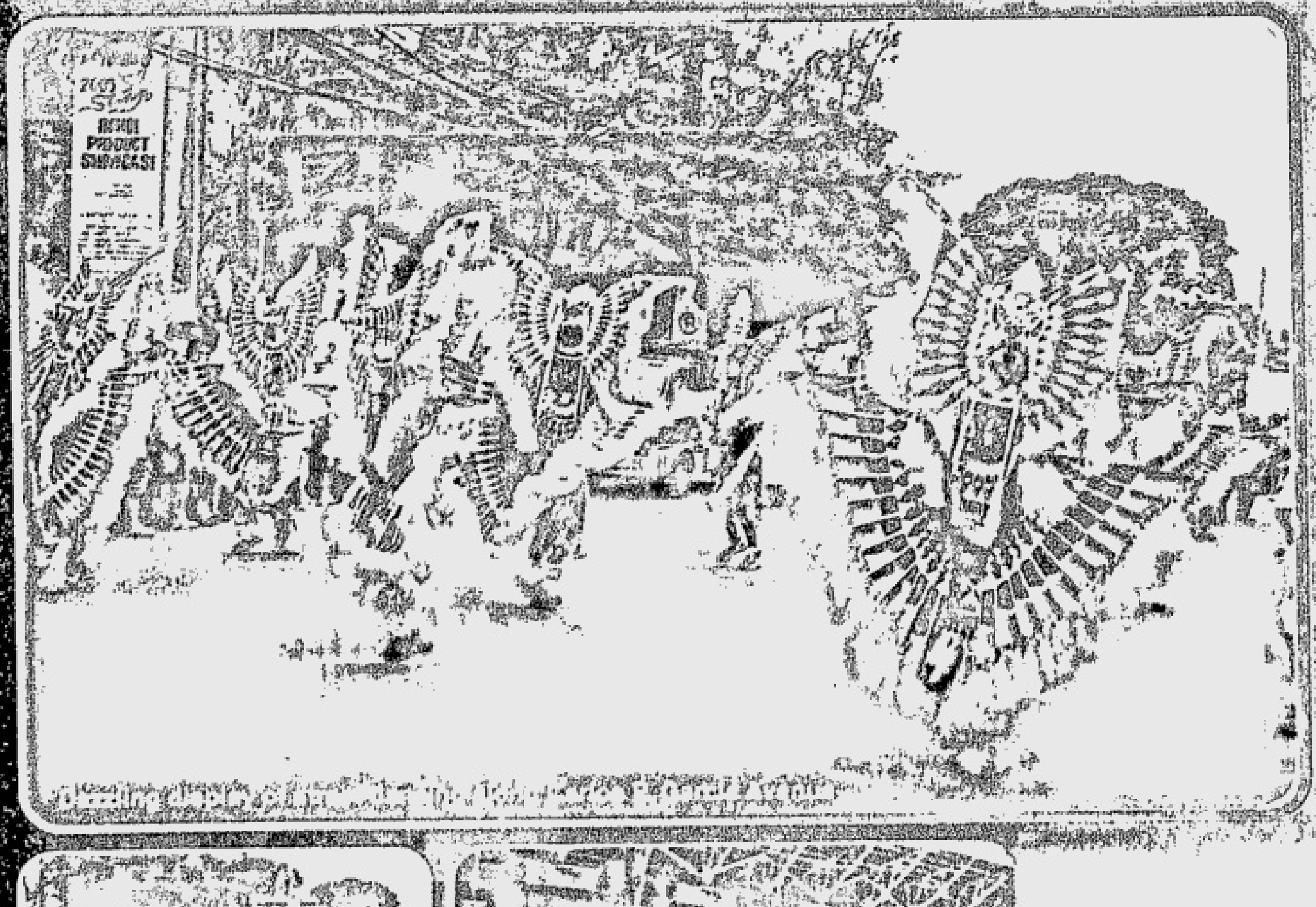
Summer may be over but the celebrations still go on. Every July, any fiesta lover will tell you that Bohol is the place to be. This year was no different from previous years when SMART Buddy helped spice up the already colorful and vibrant Sandugo Festival.

The festival commemorates one of the most important events in Philippine history, as immortalized by renowned Filipino painter Juan Luna. His work of art depicts the blood compact between Datu Sikatuna, a local native chieftain, and Captain Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, the Spanish explorer and colonizer. The first international treaty of friendship between Spain and the Philippines, this blood compact was said to have taken place along the coast of Bohol, now a district of Tagbilaran, on March 16, 1565.



The unmistakable color and excitement of the Sandugo Festival

SANDUGO 2005



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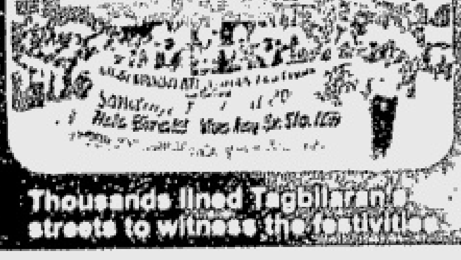
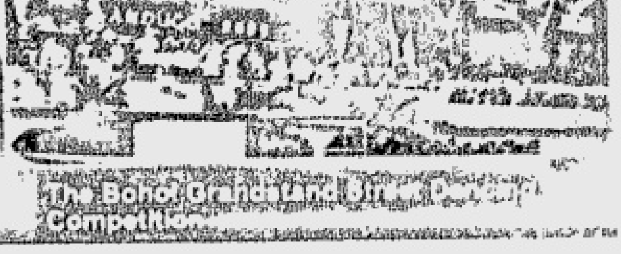


Thousands lined Tagbilaran's streets to witness the festivities

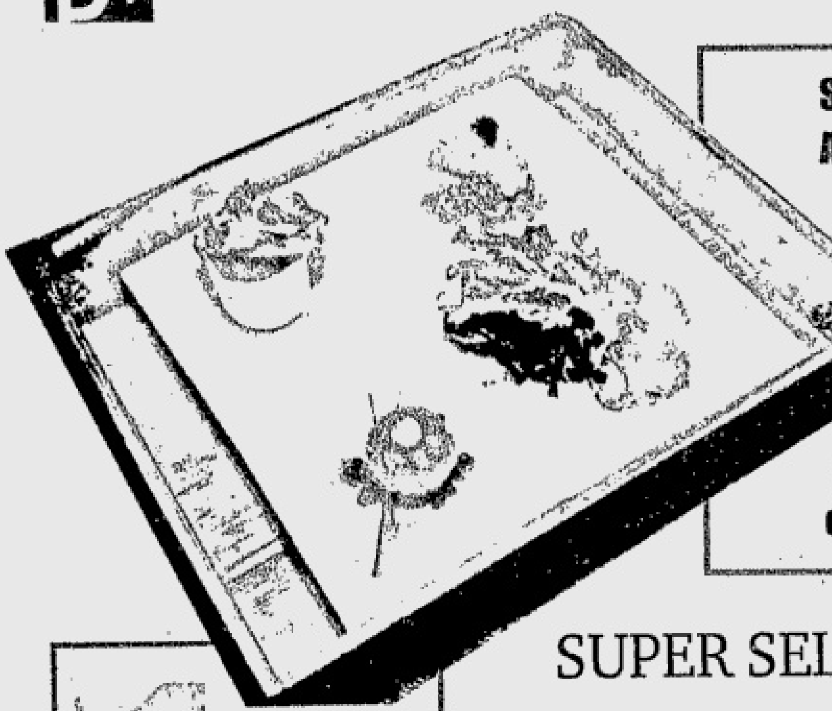


The Bohol Grandstand Street Dancing Competition

Fast forward to 2005 and what transpired 440 years ago was once again being celebrated—the FIESTAmazing way! This year, SMART Buddy made the Sandugo Festival all the more memorable with a whole slew of events as captivating as the festival itself. Last July 21, the FIESTAmazing Fair that was held in Tagbilaran City Port drew in thousands of Boholanos and visitors alike, eager to be part of the action. As the sun went down, more excitement was brewing at Island City Mall as music lovers readied themselves for Pinoy rock music at its best—no less than the FIESTAmazing Bamboo concert! As expected, Bamboo rocked Tagbilaran to near seismic proportions. SMART Buddy even offered the "FIESTAmazing" song by the band, which can still be downloaded by texting TONE FIESTA to 234 for monotones and POLY FIESTA to 234 for polytones. For more, simply text BAMBOO to 234.

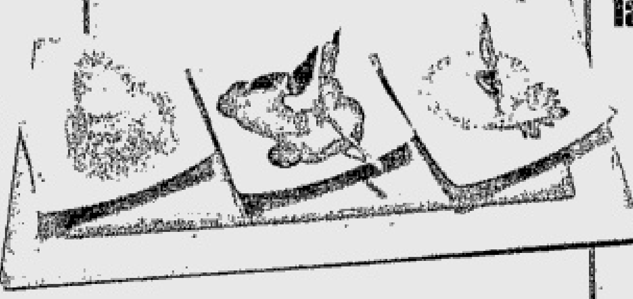
Then on July 24, there was a breathtaking display of street dancing along Carlos P. Garcia Avenue. The dancers' indigenous costumes were visually stunning color coordinated creations that were a sight to behold. Coupled with the beat of the drums and the perfectly choreographed moves, the vibe in the streets was one of pure sensory overload. Later that day, a Street Dancing Competition was held at the Bohol Grandstand and SMART Buddy was there to join in the festivities. Mementos of Bohol and Sandugo Festival were available for download, ranging from logos (text LSANDUGO to 555) to picture messages (text PM SANDUGO to 555) and MMS wallpapers (text PIC SANDUGO2WP to 555). And if that still weren't enough, the Bamboo endorsed SMART Buddy FIESTAmazing CD was being given away free simply by becoming a SMART Buddy subscriber. This fabulous disc contains the FIESTAmazing music video featuring Bamboo and the actual FIESTAmazing song itself.

So as this year's cheers still ring in our ears, SMART Buddy once again looks back at a truly fun and memorable Sandugo Festival and hopes to see you in future 2005 Philippine Fiesta Tours!

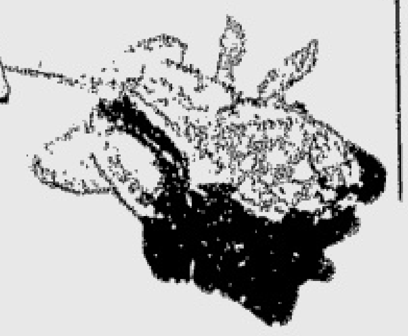


Savor the Bento Box of Appetizers which includes home smoked monkfish, marinated salmon with soy jelly, crab and foie gras hakow and sweet pepper gazpacho with shrimp crostini.

Cleanse your palate with Lolo Dad's Smoke Belcher's Sherbet (peach, pepper and chili sorbet).



Let "Castricums" hit the spot. Enjoy the filling main course—roasted lamb cutlet, lamb shoulder ragout and potato-lamb meat pie.



SUPER SELECTIONS!

More than meets the mouth

By Pam Pastor

Start the meal with the Assortment of Oysters—a combination of fresh, gratinated and baked oysters. The baked ones are unbelievably tasty.

EARLIER this year, nine teams of Super chefs and kitchen warriors from some of the best restaurants and hotels in Manila were handed a mysterious black box each.

Once opened, the mysterious black box revealed identical sets of raw ingredients. The teams were then given the difficult task of using the ingredients to prepare three-course meals for twenty guests. They faced the challenge eagerly, brandishing their gourmet swords (fine, knives) and displaying their cooking magic in an effort to win over the judges.

One team emerged triumphant.

Move over, Iron Chef.

Chef Ariel Manuel of Lolo Dad's Cafe, along with Jeffrey Reguindin, Eugene Guevarra and Romel Cabahug beat eight other teams at this year's Meat and Livestock Association Black Box Culinary Competition.

These food masters from Lolo Dad's Cafe will be flying to Australia next month to represent the Philippines in the international championship.

But before they leave, they will whip up their winning menu again and again and again for Lolo Dad's loyal clients—a meal that's fit for winners.

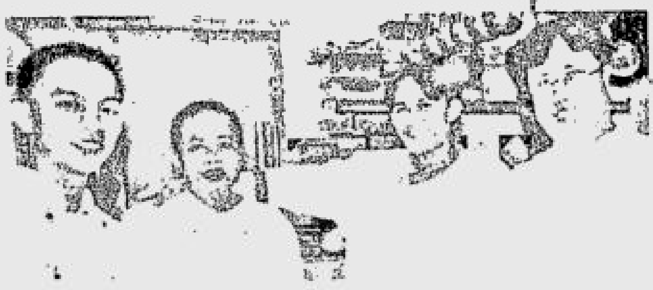
Here's paradise for your palate in six winning mouth-watering steps:

LOLO Dad's Cafe. Paradise for your palate.

Enjoy white and red wine with the different courses and end your meal with coffee or tea. They say you are what you eat. Eat a winner, be a winner.

Indulge in the Tasting of Desserts. Why have one when you can have a trio of Super sugar treats? Green tea pistachio ice cream ravioli, deep fried chocolate mochi and strawberry sushi—we bet you can't pick just one favorite.

Avail of the winning menu for P2500 per head (wine inclusive). Visit Lolo Dad's Cafe at 899 President Quirino Avenue Malate Manila. Call 5242295 or 5267151.



KITCHEN warriors ready to conquer Australia. (from left) Chef Ariel Manuel, Jeffrey Reguindin, Eugene Guevarra and Romel Cabahug.

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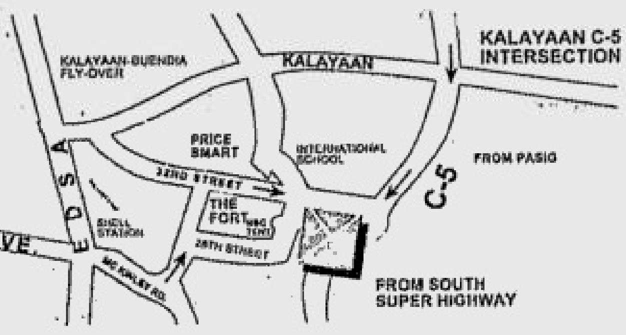

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Christmas in August

If you used to think Bazaar was Bizarre—you're kinda right, but in a good way

SUPER KC Concepcion, organizer of the Super Artists' Fair

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

IT WAS hell outside—but inside, well, there was KC Concepcion. See, ladies and gentlemen, on August 6, 2005, KC Concepcion arranged a Super Artists' Fair slash Bazaar for charity. It was the funnest thing to do that afternoon—with or without the rain. (The funnest thing to do that night of course, was at the Super Awards.)

For the tons of Super people who braved the rain, with the cold weather, all the stuff on sale at 0.1% the price, and all the models, it felt like Christmas... Christmas in August.

Your Super! family was there the whole day—but it didn't feel like a day. One, because we made money. Two, because we made money for charity. Three, because we were entertained by the hordes of people with cameras waiting to flash at the celebs. And four...

(Cue Christmas music...)

In random booths at Super, we saw some bargains, hey—

Calvin Millado's breast pumps!
Ate Shawie's clothes on sale!
Tim Yap's Andrew E. TAPES
Fanny Serrano's beauty products!
Postcards, dresses, jewelry!
Nicolette Bell's shoes!

CHRISTMAS/ E2

BILI na mga suki! Aizz Marquez and her booming booth

OH LOOK, it's so fun selling my stuff!

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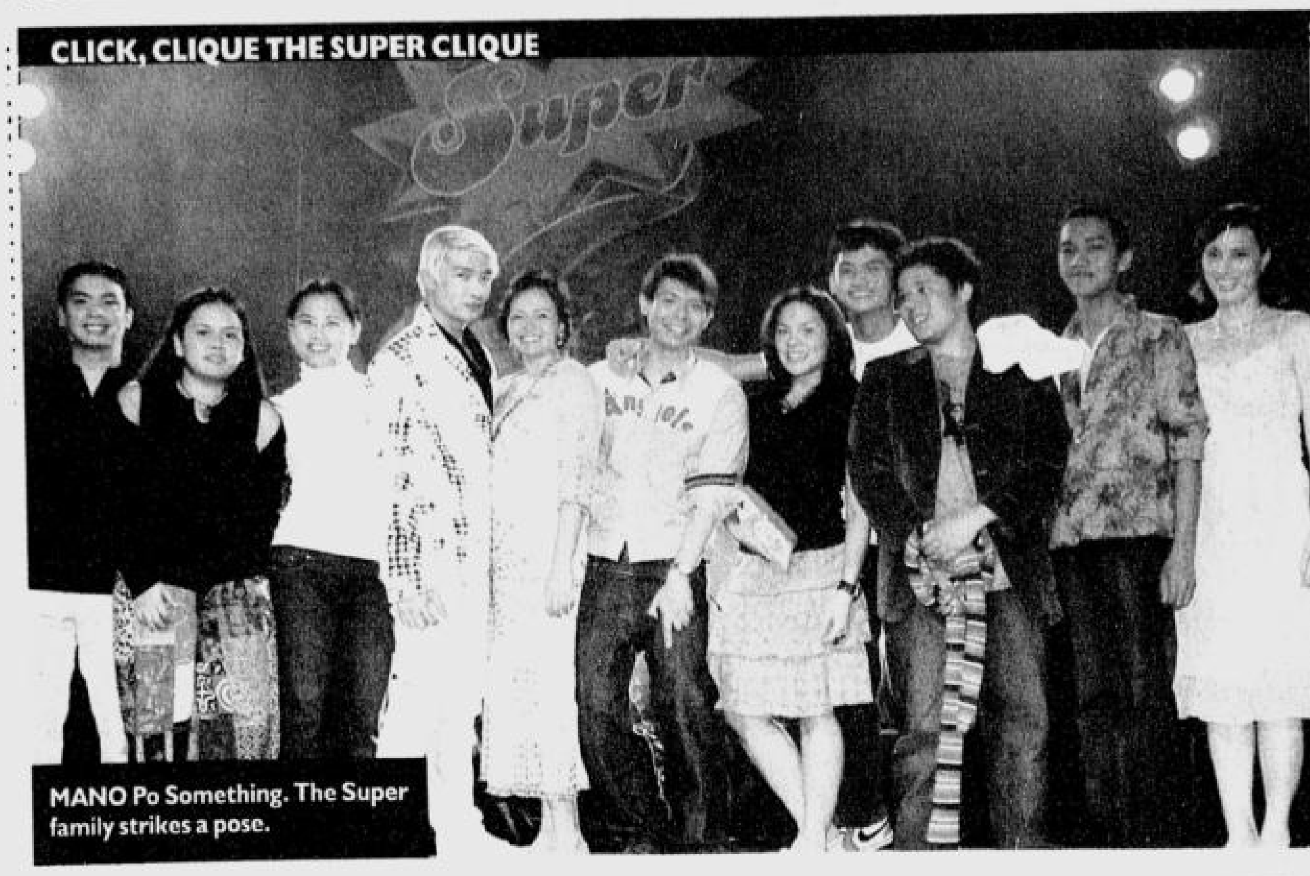

MANO Po Something. The Super family strikes a pose.

Stay super

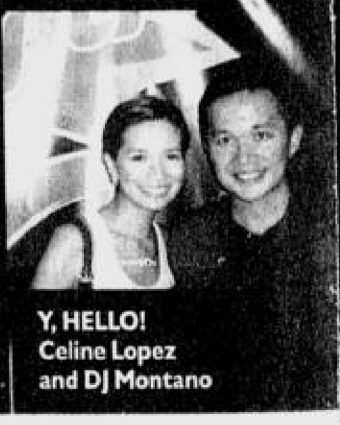
RAJO Laurel, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and the hidden Mickey

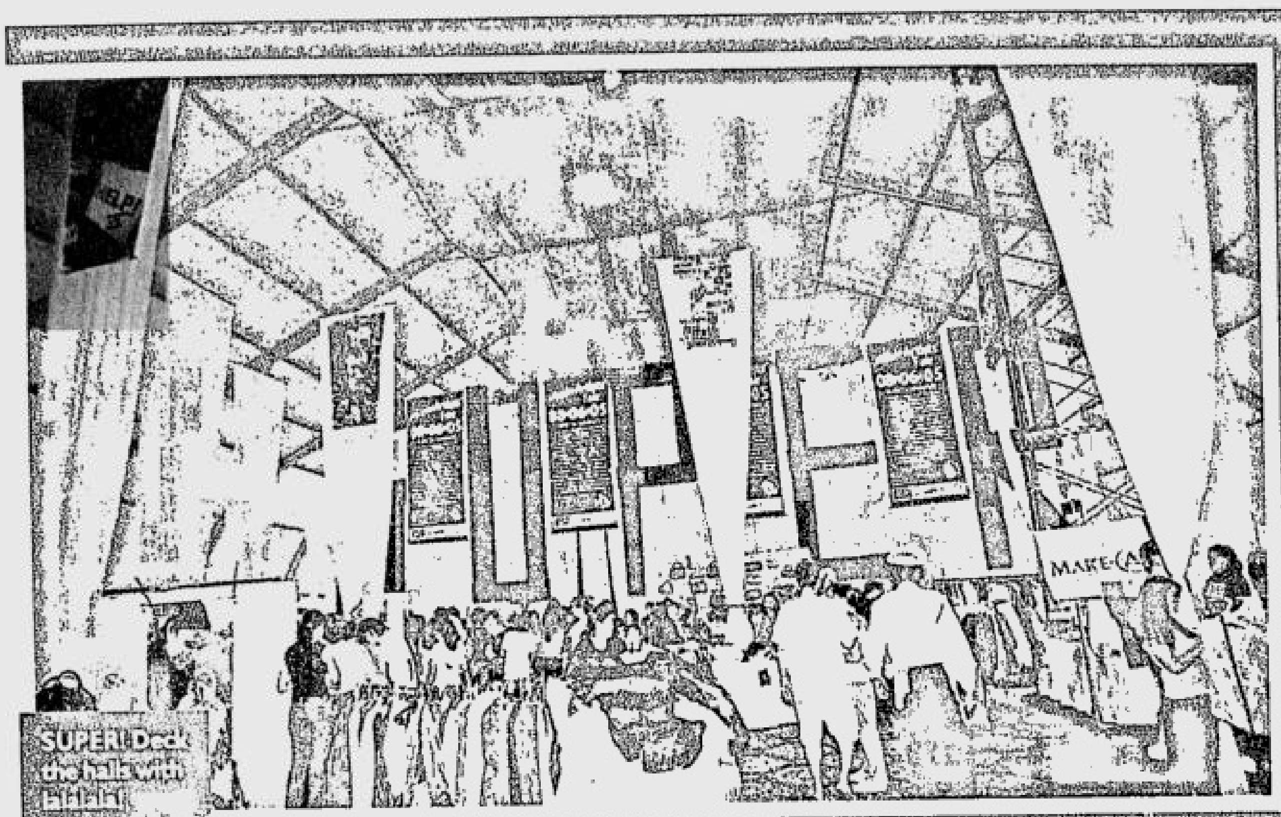
I'M TOO sexy for my... yeah.

KER-CHING! Corinne Ching

ARMENIAN NIGHTS. Tricia David and Aslie Aslanan

____ AND BRENT. (Cut this picture out and paste your face in.)


Y, HELLO! Celine Lopez and DJ Montano


SUPER! Deck the halls with [illegible]

PAULINE [illegible] Juan and the little one

ATE KC, pa-autograph po!

Super Artist's fair

Christmas in

HAPPY David says, "Get Happy!" (Look at them—they are happy!)

THIS Super event was put up so that many other children get a chance to be Super as well.

From page E1

Karel Marquez's thingies

Happy David's Get Happy... made all her buyers... glad!

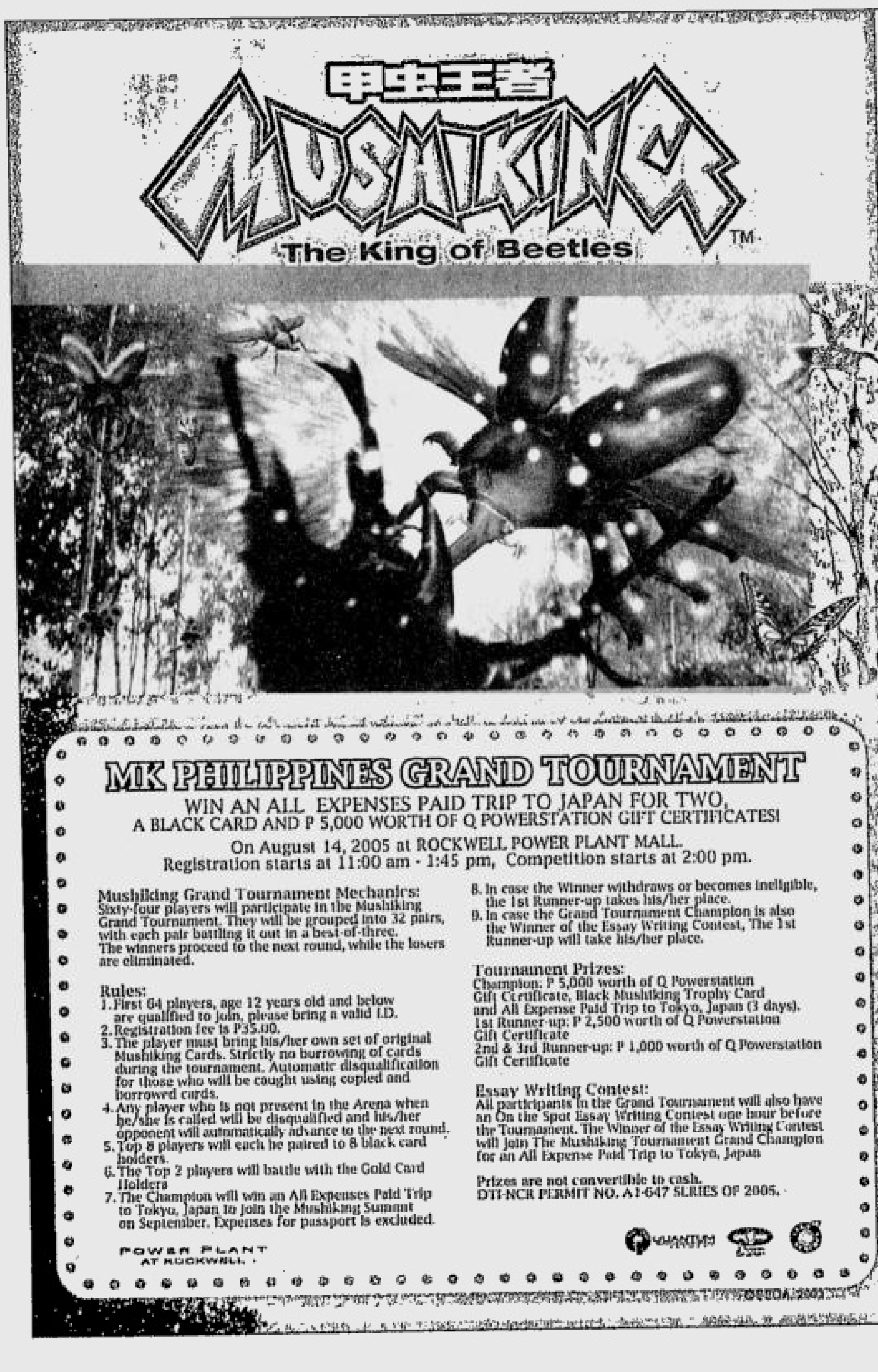
(Christmas music starts to skip, saving the world from destruction.)

The truth is, it was a fun day—just seeing all the different people. There were moms, and *yayas*, two girls dressed as Paris and Nikki Hilton, beautiful people, cops, angsty artists from angstland, high artists from um, the high lands, Sharonians, serious people, quiet people, young and old. (These were the people that came to our booth, at least.)

Because of these people, the day was Super. It was a celebration of what Super is all about—which is (point at yourself)—yes, you... and everybody else, even if they aren't like you.

Thank you all for coming. Stay Super!

YOU CAN [illegible] I'm not looking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Registration starts at 11:00 am - 1:45 pm, Competition starts at 2:00 pm.

Mushiking Grand Tournament Mechanics:
Sixty-four players will participate in the Mushiking Grand Tournament. They will be grouped into 32 pairs, with each pair battling it out in a best-of-three. The winners proceed to the next round, while the losers are eliminated.

Rules:
1. First 64 players, age 12 years old and below are qualified to join, please bring a valid I.D.
2. Registration fee is P35.00.
3. The player must bring his/her own set of original Mushiking Cards. Strictly no borrowing of cards during the tournament. Automatic disqualification for those who will be caught using copied and borrowed cards.
4. Any player who is not present in the Arena when he/she is called will be disqualified and his/her opponent will automatically advance to the next round.
5. Top 8 players will each be paired to 8 black card holders.
6. The Top 2 players will battle with the Gold Card Holders
7. The Champion will win an All Expenses Paid Trip to Tokyo, Japan to join the Mushiking Summit on September. Expenses for passport is excluded.
8. In case the Winner withdraws or becomes ineligible, the 1st Runner-up takes his/her place.
9. In case the Grand Tournament Champion is also the Winner of the Essay Writing Contest, The 1st Runner-up will take his/her place.

Tournament Prizes:
Champion: P 5,000 worth of Q Powerstation Gift Certificate, Black Mushiking Trophy Card and All Expense Paid Trip to Tokyo, Japan (3 days).
1st Runner-up: P 2,500 worth of Q Powerstation Gift Certificate
2nd & 3rd Runner-up: P 1,000 worth of Q Powerstation Gift Certificate

Essay Writing Contest:
All participants in the Grand Tournament will also have an On the Spot Essay Writing Contest one hour before the Tournament. The Winner of the Essay Writing Contest will join The Mushiking Tournament Grand Champion for an All Expense Paid Trip to Tokyo, Japan

Prizes are not convertible to cash.
DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A1-647 SERIES OF 2005.

POWER PLANT AT ROCKWELL

©SEGA 2003

The King of Beetles at the King of Tournaments

Mushiking (The King of Beetles) is the first game to combine stunning graphics, truly interactive gameplay, and the fun of card collecting. Launched by SEGA in 2003, Mushiking is currently the latest craze in Japan. Over 33 million cards were sold in its first year alone! First released in English in Singapore, the Philippines is the third country in the world to experience the Mushiking phenomenon.

Exclusively available at Quantum Amusement, Q Powerstation, and Club Synergy outlets, Mushiking has brought the excitement to fever pitch—with the country's first Mushiking Grand Tournament.

Trip to Japan

This year's tournament will be larger than ever. It will include two contests: a video game tournament and an on-the-spot essay-writing contest. For both challenges, the first prize will be a trip to Japan—for the winning child, as well as for an accompanying parent.

To be held at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell on August 14, 2005, the Mushiking Grand Tournament will be an open contest—meaning beginners and experts, as well as those new to the game can join. The tournament will be open to all kids aged 12 and below, with up to 64 contestants allowed to join in the Mushiking videogame tournament and up to 90 in the essay-writing contest. Registration starts at 11 am and the tournament proper begins at 2 pm. In between, there will also be free face painting, coloring activities and fun games.

Easy to Play, Easy to Win

To play, all kids have to do is choose a Beetle Card, power it up with Skill Cards, and watch them come to life on screen. Only the strongest beetles can win—so building a great collection is key to become the Champion!

With each play, the machine dispenses either one of two kinds of cards: a beetle card (the character you fight with) and a skill card (which powers up your character with special offensive or defensive abilities).

Kids are encouraged to watch, join and rise to the Mushiking challenge this Sunday at the Powerplant Mall.

MEET THE HIZONS. [illegible] and the Hizons

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MAY I tell your fortune?–Karel Marquez

PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY. Lex Ledesma and Tina Tinio

IZA! 'Nuff said.

JUST pose, Jenni Epperson

KC MONTERO. (We were asking for an expression between happy and surprised.)

ON PRINT. JM Rodriguez

THE FAB 4. Felipe Flores, Einar Ingerbrigsten, Oliver Barriou and Carlos Concepcion

KODAK MOMENT. Avril Rodriguez, Ryan Pronstroller, Angel Landayan, Hazel Soriaga, Gizella Villacorta and Ale Vargas

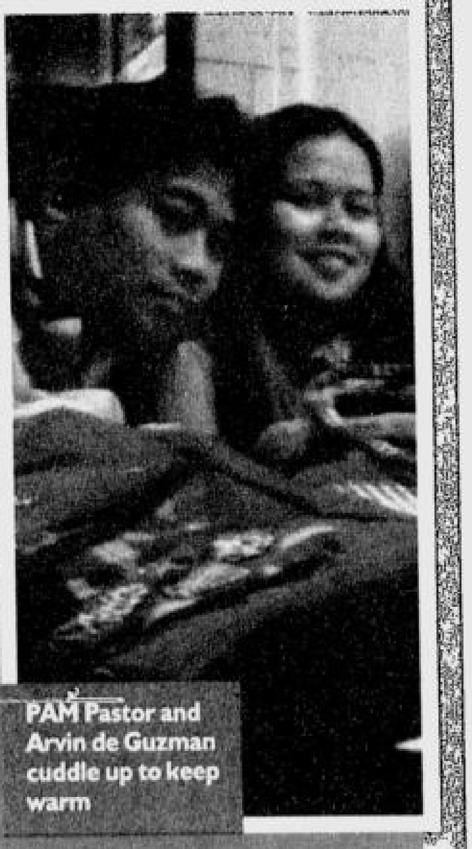
TV DINNER. Lino Cayetano and Bianca Gonzales

SWAN-LESS Leica Carpo

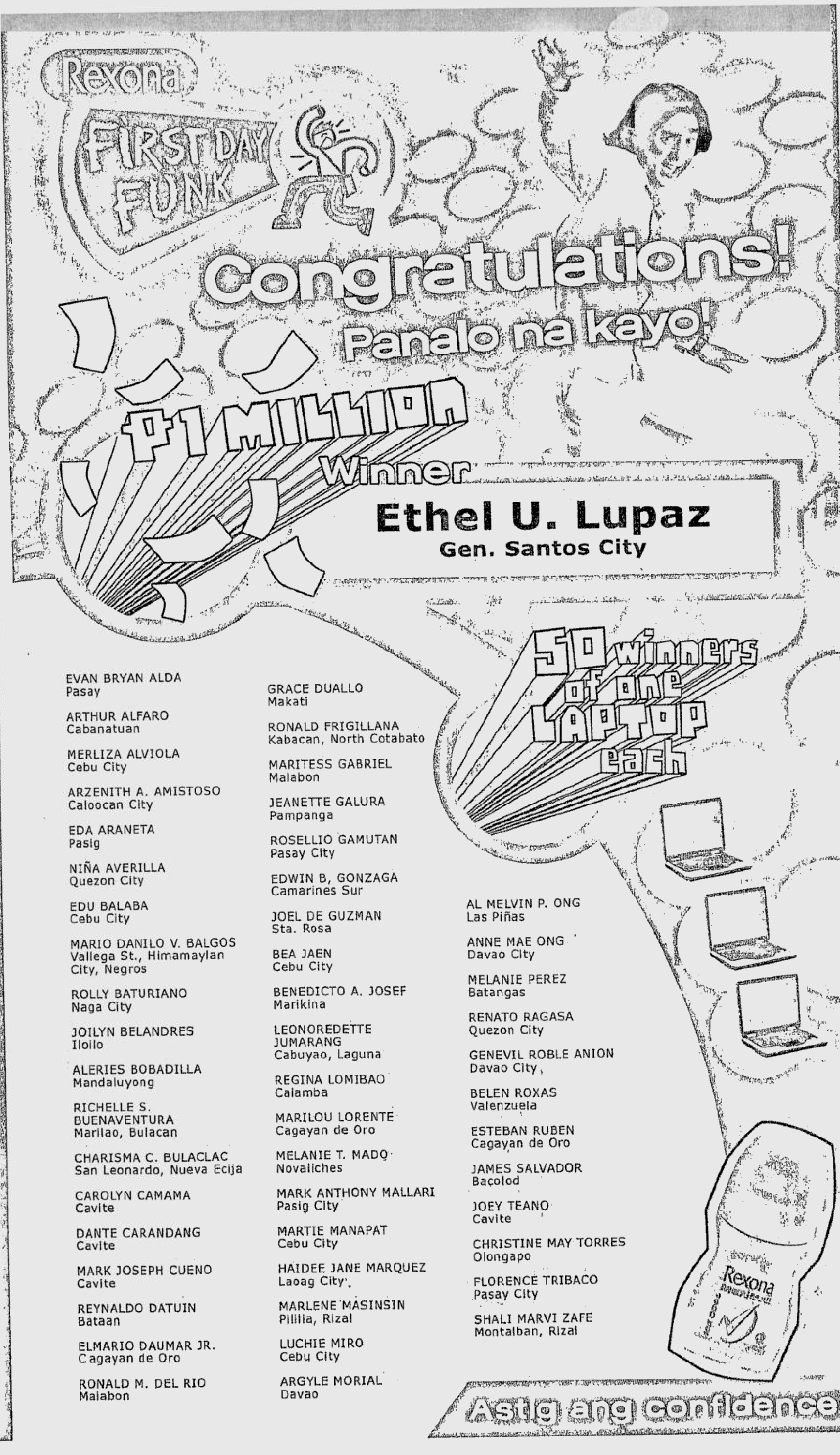
HIZON AVENUE. Vince and Shai Hizon

KATE Torralba and her beautiful wares

August


PAM Pastor and Arvin de Guzman cuddle up to keep warm

THE DAY Giant [illegible]


Rexona

FIRST DAY FUNK

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Astig ang confidence!

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What's it like to turn two?

PHOTO BY JAMES GABRILLO

MORE than a hundred Saturdays of fun? Check. A bigger playground with more friends? Yup. A few bruises and scratches? Possibly. Another badass birthday party? You better believe it!

But for us at Super! our second year not only marks our transition from newborn baby to wide-eyed toddler. Year No. 2 also brings with it the challenges of being an unusually articulate child in a world of jaded adults. It's in this spirit of idealism, individuality, and, okay, youthful mischief that we continue to capture the ever-changing face of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment and recreation one weekend at a time.

Now that we're becoming more aware of the world we've inherited from the older generations, we at Super! have also doubled our efforts to find people who embody those ideals. In a time when creativity is the greatest cure for the disease called mediocrity, it is individuals who choose to take long hikes along the road less traveled who make the biggest difference."

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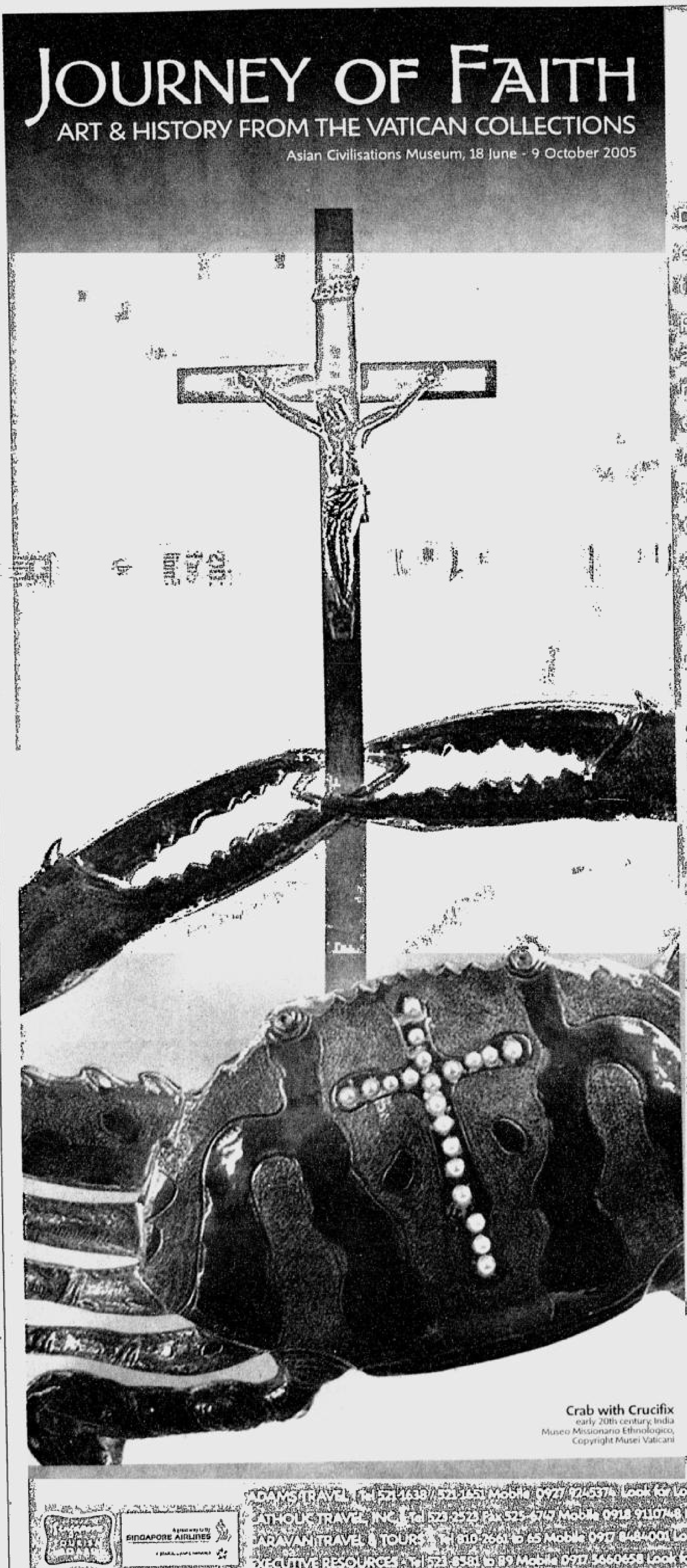

JOURNEY OF FAITH
ART & HISTORY FROM THE VATICAN COLLECTIONS
Asian Civilisations Museum, 18 June - 9 October 2005

Discover the artistic past of Christianity through this rare exhibition of priceless religious artefacts and masterpieces. Then experience the Sacred Music Festival that celebrates the diversity of Christian music from all around the world with performances from over 100 local and international artists.

Sacred Music Festival Highlights

Mendelssohn's Elijah
30 September - 1 October

Roman Carnival
10 & 11 September

Other Events

Curator's Tour of the Exhibition
26 August

Italia Frescoes: A Modern Vision about Art & Faith Exhibition
2-13 September

Rome from Renaissance to Baroque by Sabrina Zuber, Art Consultant
29 September

Crab with Crucifix
early 20th century, India
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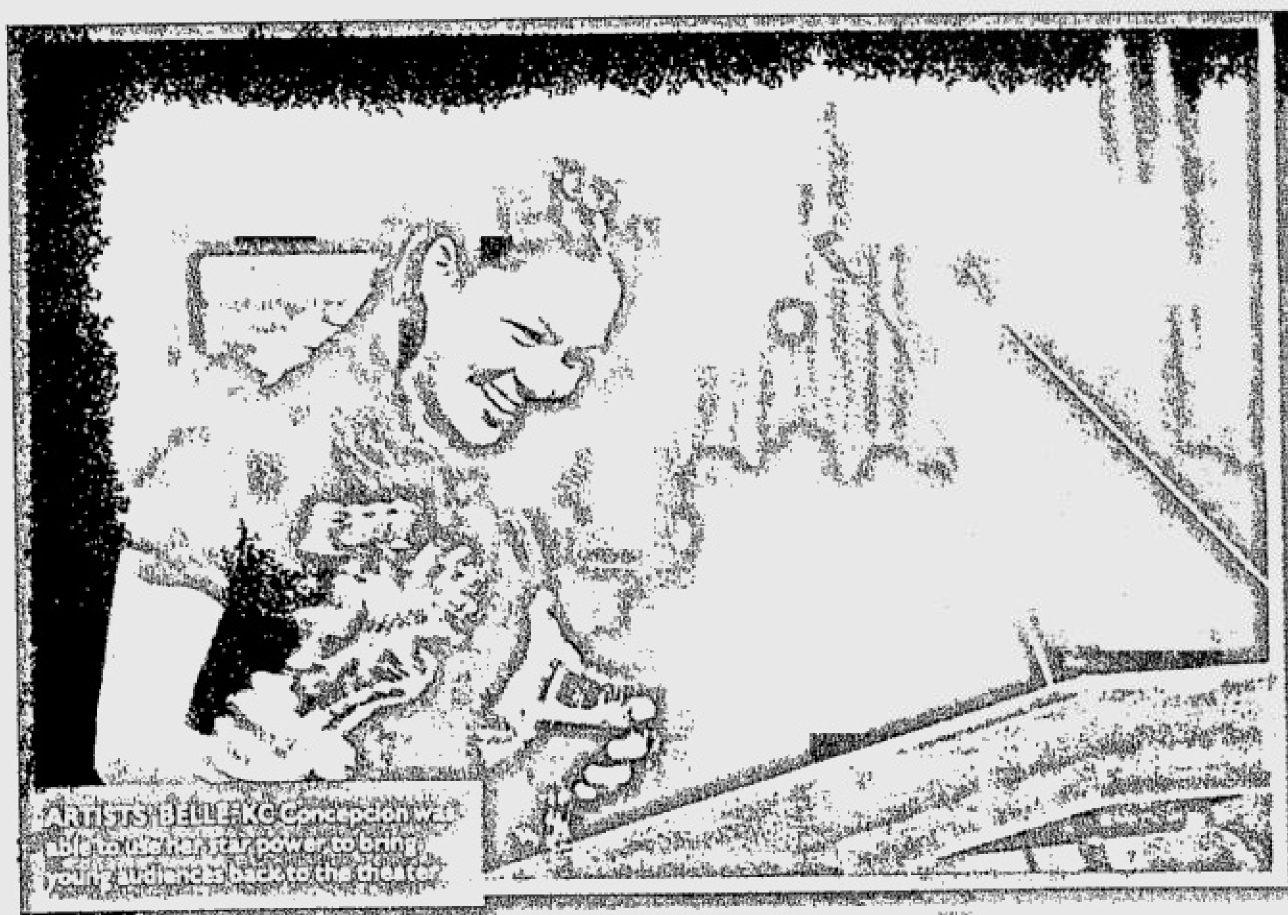
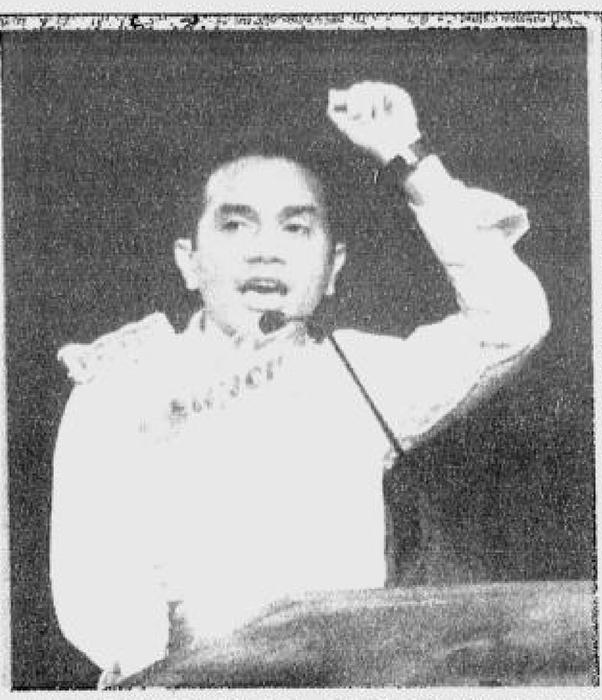
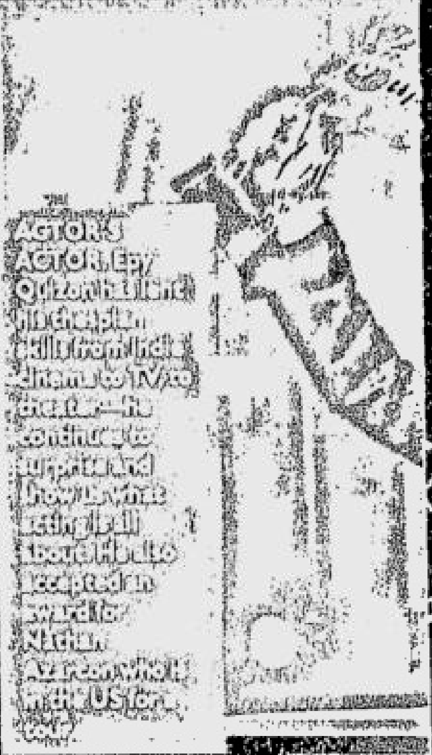


ARTISTS' BELLE. KC Concepcion was able to use her star power to bring young audiences back to the theater.



SPREAD THE YAM. Direk Yam Laranas announces "Sigaw's" sojourn to Hollywood. It's now entitled "The Echo."



ACTOR'S ACTOR. Epy Quizon has lent his thespian skills from indie cinema to TV to theater—he continues to surprise and show us what acting is all about. He also accepted an award for Nathan Azarcon who is in the US for [illegible]

I AM SUPER AWARDS

Tim Yap

Pop beyond the pale

SIX YEA
Montero
running
TV histo

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH AGCAOILI, ROGER CARPIO AND BETOY JOHNSON

BREAKTHROUGH DIRECTOR. Young gun AF Benaza is advertising's

Super! pays tribute to 20 Super! peeps (tsup!) who are rocking their fields, and how!

IT IS no coincidence that the "I Am Super!" Awards were held exactly the same day that **Andy Warhol** was born.

The Prince of Pop (and we don't mean **Michael Jackson**) created the most sensational art of the '60s, reflecting the culture of his time. Just like the controversial figure, people wondered, "Was he a glamorous decadent, exploiting different subcultures? Or was he the most brilliant social commentator of his day?"

That night at the NBC Tent, the inner Warholian spirit was well and alive. Twenty outstanding peeps took the stage and got recognition from their peers, for their achievements, rocking their realms as only Super! beings can.

Super awardee **Kate Torralba** was close to tears when she accepted her award. Presenter **Ronald Pasion** emphasized on the importance of being Pinoy in these times. **Epy Quizon** thanked his father for his gift. **Lex Ledesma** delivered a speech worthy of presidential ovation.

KC Montero thanked himself and declared to all that the award was long overdue. The "I Love You" girls tipsily traipsed onstage, screaming, "I love you! I love you!" **Yam Laranas** blurted his Super! scoop of "Sigaw" hitting Hollywood, with the title, "The Echo." A Mangyan woman, who was with the Modi girls, came all the way from Mindoro to thank those who were open to embracing their culture.

This was definitely not your normal awards night.

Instead of canned applause, all the cheers that night were heartfelt and real. Instead of an auditorium filled with strangers, the NBC Tent became an intimate gathering of artists and friends. Instead of elaborate gowns, people came as their Super! selves.

In other awards shows, celebrities come for publicity. Here, they all showed up because of passion.

Which is what the "I Am Super!" awards is all about. Doing your own thing not for recognition but because you wouldn't be who you are without it.

SPEAK OUT. Super! Bianca Gonzales serves as an inspirational youth voice.

WE LOVE YOU. Corinne Chiu, Sharon Atillo and Mimi Santos champion the underground art shaker.

MARK HIS IMAGES. Mark Nicdao's exuberance can draw out the inner life of his subjects.

MOBILE MOGU
Mikey Garcell
free SMS possib

VIKTOR THE INNOVATOR. Ino Caluza makes jeans that will surely get you [illegible]

MODI AND THE MANGYAN. Richie Ortega, Mara Coscolluela and Tracie Anglo-Dizon have brought indigenous fashions into the forefront. Mabuhay!

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? Mishka Adams' soothing voice lures a new generation of jazz lovers.

WAXING BRAZILIAN. [illegible] and Arnie Arce Gonzales know that to fuel passion is one Havaianas step at a time.

CREATIVE HEARTS. [illegible] Uy makes pages leap visually. Here with Ichi Apostol and Rorie C

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IBOTO SI LEX! Lex Ledesma is an expert in education who can very well educate experts

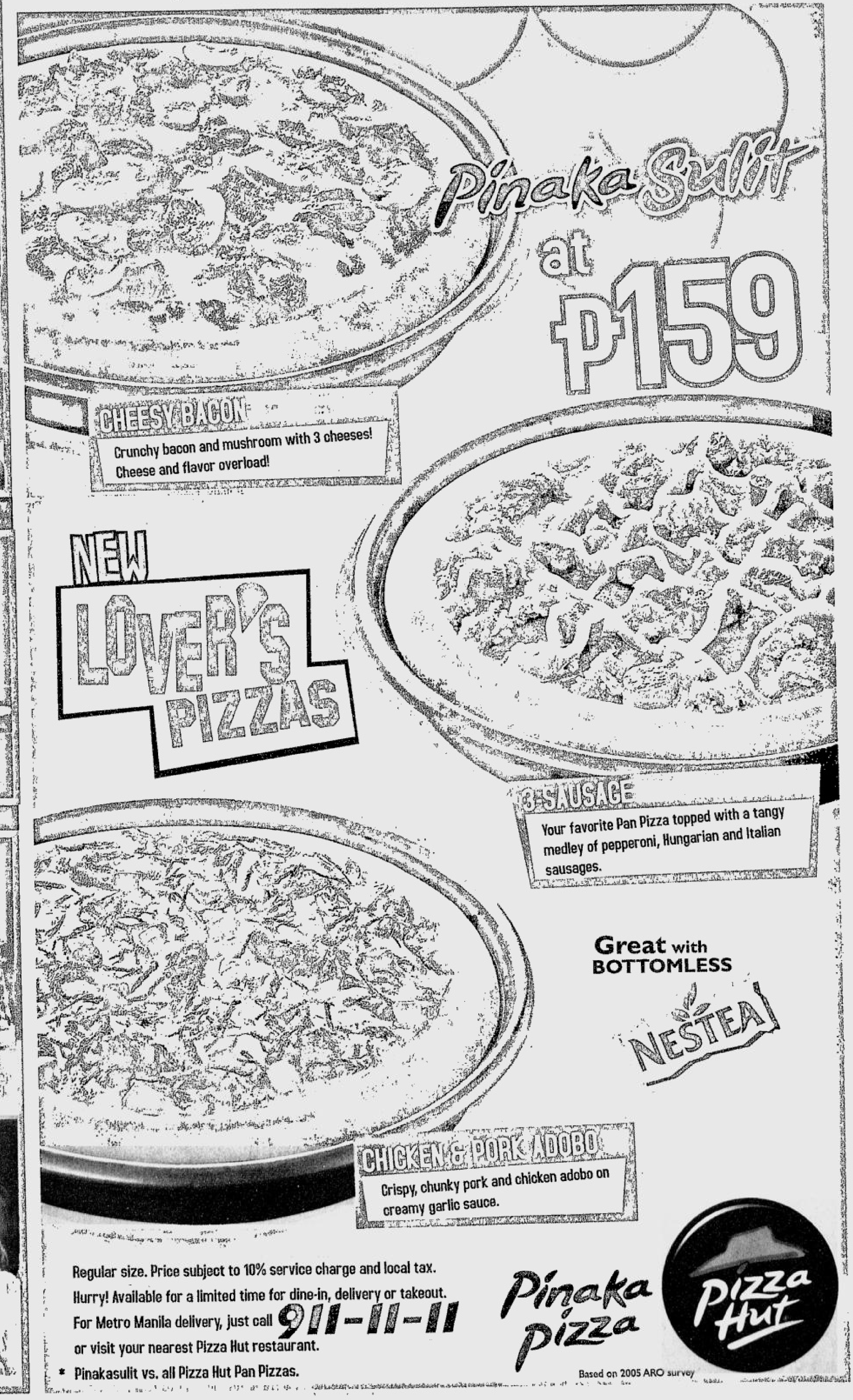
QUEEN OF THE SLASH GENERATION. Kate Torralba, designer/singer/poet/student receives the Super award from Myrza Sison and Tessa Valdes

UNDER, KC the longest VJ in local period

THE MONSTER. [illegible]

THE S IS FOR SUPER AND THE U IS FOR UNIQUE. Me wearing Gian Romano

I'LL BE YOUR TOUR GUIDE. Carlos Celdran [illegible]



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SUPER!'s David Milan and Jojo A "All the Way."

SUPER! IT. Georgina Wilson and Rosario Herrera.

PREVIEW pair. Super!'s Gino de la Paz and Pauline Suaco-Juan.

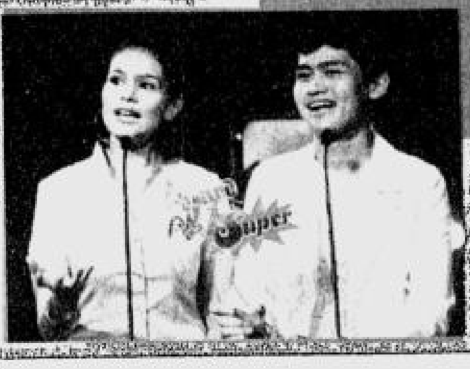
KAT MOSS. Super!'s Katrina Holigores and Jason Moss.

SARANGGOLA ni Pepe. Super!'s Pepe Diokno flies his Kate Torralba.

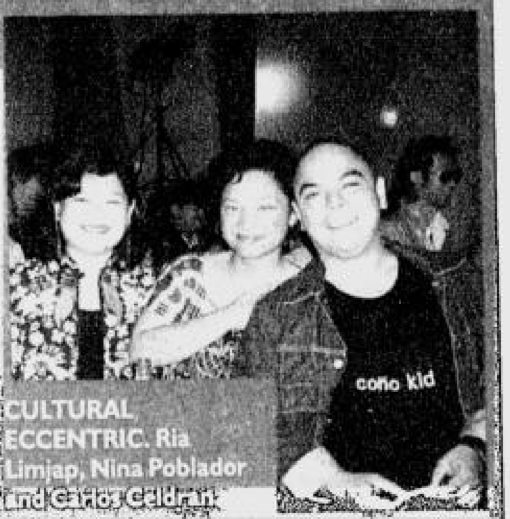
CLUB_TV's Laur Jean and Colby Montero give out the VJ-hood award.

JENNI Epperson and Brent Javier give the award to AF Benaza.

RJ LEDESMA and Xeng Zulueta introduced Lex Ledesma.


IZA CALZADO and Super!'s James Gabrillo honor Yam Laranas.

LEX LEDESMA and Tina Pamintuan with an Oompa Loompa


CULTURAL ECCENTRIC. Ria Limjap, Nina Poblador and Carlos Celdran.

STYLISH siblings Liz and Vince Uy.

I DID IT MY WAAAY... Our very own Tim Yap hosted the Super! Awards.

DIAL M for Marcus Maguigad. This guy took the I am Super! trophy photo.

GEORGINA Wilson, Vicky Herrera and Michelle Pamintuan.

MALAYANG TAGAPAGTANGGOL. Ronald Pasion stands the freedom to express.

DOUBLE THE FUN. Cristal Bagatsing and Alex Escat.

FOR THE YOUTH. The artist instincts of Kiko Escora.

PDI PUBLISHER Isagani Yambot.

THROUGH THE LENS. Carla Alindahao and Mark Nicdao.

PRETTY in Pinky [illegible]

THE SUPER! awardees received eyewear from Ray-Ban, Killer Loop and Arnette Eyewear.

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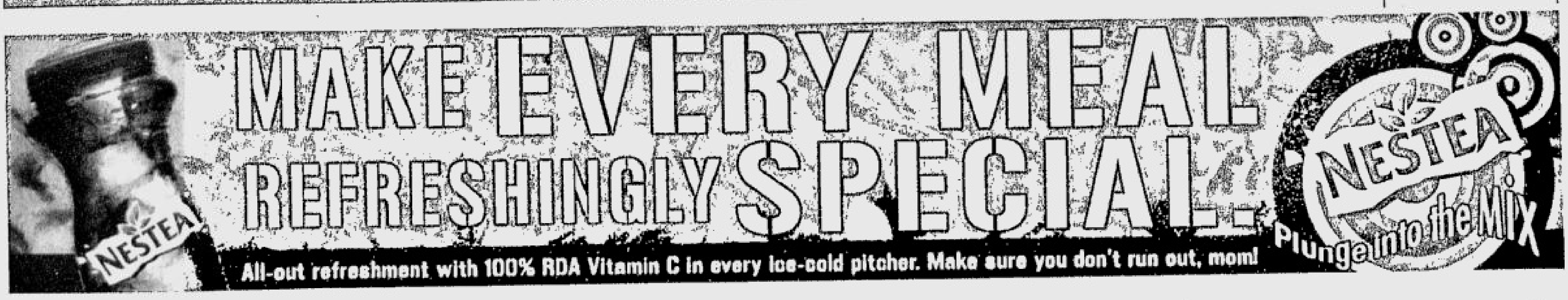
MAKE EVERY MEAL REFRESHINGLY SPECIAL.
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